From June 4 to 6, 2014, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) conducted, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and the Ministry of Interior, the "Workshop on Migration Statistics in Ecuador: Reality, Potential and Prospects". The event was supported by the International Organization for Migration, IOM, and received financial assistance from the European Union as part of the project for "Strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to establish management models on migration and development policies", implemented by the IOM with close cooperation with its partner, the Foundation for International and Ibero-American Administration and Public Policies.

For this event, IOM coordinated the participation and presence of the international experts Gladys Massé (Argentina) and William Mejía (Colombia), together with Frank Laczko of IOM Geneva and Olivier Grosjean of IOM Brussels, who provided new information and shared regional experiences.

The three-day workshop brought together over 50 participants from ministries, public institutions and international organizations that offer, compile or use migration statistics. Delegates from the various public agencies gave presentations on handling information related to human mobility, thus providing a base for fruitful intergovernmental discussions centring on the experiences and work undertaken in Ecuador to develop migration statistics.

During the second day of the workshop, while the participants discussed specific issues on: human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants; migration statistics and gender; internal migration statistics and migration indicators, the Commission on Migration Statistics - comprising the ministries directly related with the issue, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, the Ministry of Interior, the Coordinating Ministry of Social Development, and under the leadership of INEC - met to develop a Work Plan for the next two years, in which a plan of action was defined, including products and timelines.

As the Deputy Minister of Human Mobility, María Landázuri said, the workshop came at just the right time, not only with respect to national processes but also bearing in mind the migration statistics meeting to be held at regional level in June. The event facilitated an exchange between different providers of migration statistics, provided for the drafting of a plan of action and a road map for the Commission on Migration Statistics, strengthened relationships for future cooperation between IOM and the INEC and, building on the debates and discussions, paved the way for greater cooperation, harmony and security with respect to the quality of migration statistics.
The IOM Assistance Programme for People Seeking International Protection (PSIP) began in 2005, thanks to generous support from the Bureau of Population, Refuge, and Migration of the United States, PRM. The Programme’s primary objective is to provide effective emergency assistance to integrate people seeking international protection into host communities as well as improve the response capacity of these communities. The scope of the PSIP Programme reaches the border areas between Colombia and Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela.

The programme is currently in its ninth phase of implementation. In Ecuador, this phase is focused on water and sanitation infrastructure activities in communities located in the northern border provinces of Esmeraldas and Sucumbios.

Work is concluding on improvements to water systems (SAP) in communities and the construction and enhancements to sanitary facilities in schools and Buen Vivir Children's Centres (CIBV), benefiting 6,594 people (PSIP and host community inhabitants) in Esmeraldas and 1,914 people in Sucumbios.

In previous phases IOM Ecuador also worked on the following components to benefit PSIP in the northern border zone: water and sanitation; education; humanitarian assistance; livelihoods; combating human trafficking; training as a core element; construction and improvements to shelters; health and prevention of violence. All these activities fulfil the goal of improving the quality of life and access to services of Colombian refugees seeking international protection and members of border host communities.
AGENDA

IOM ECUADOR HOSTS THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR THE TRAINING MANUAL AND TEACHING GUIDE FOR INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING THE CRIME OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR POLICE AND PROSECUTORS

From June 5 to 7, the IOM Ecuador Programme Against Human Trafficking conducted the validation workshop for the Training Manual and Teaching Guide for Investigating and Prosecuting the crime of human trafficking with the participation of 43 police officers and prosecutors. The opening ceremony was addressed by Mr. Rogelio Bernal, IOM Ecuador Chief of Mission; Dr Teodoro Barros, Director of the Prosecutors’ School of the Attorney General’s Office and Ms. Carina Arguello, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Internal Security.

This Manual and Training Guide is the result of the first of a series of training sessions held between October and December 2013 in which 85 police officers and prosecutors received instruction. These events were the result of cooperation between the Ministry of Interior, the Attorney General’s Office and IOM and made possible by generous funding from the International Narcotics Bureau of the Government of the United States of America (INL).

The aim was to achieve better coordination on work undertaken by the police and the Attorney General’s Office so that, based on an appropriate investigation plan, the Public Prosecutor is able to acquire a better version of the facts and validate investigations during the trial stage. The courses deployed a very practical methodology and learning methods incorporating case studies, interviewing techniques for use with victims of human trafficking and mock crime scenes.

As is common knowledge, human trafficking is a complex crime. It occurs under many guises, exploiting the vulnerability of victims and their national and transnational nature. Traffickers need the threat of penal sanctions and the police need to be able to apply new forms of criminal investigation and crime prosecution techniques. Consequently, trainers require specialization on new teaching methods, featuring techniques that encourage the student to construct concepts, debate and develop casuistry arguments in real and hypothetical cases. Taking an active role ensures a better learning process and greater effectiveness by officials when faced with cases of human trafficking in the course of duty.

In addition, the Manual is complemented with a Guide addressed to trainers that will replicate the learning process in classroom workshops, and contains dynamics and interaction activities, debates, role plays as well as other exercises that extend the scope of the training.

The Cultural Orientation Room of IOM in Quito was recently decked out in red and white for two sessions of the Canadian Orientation Abroad, held during the first weeks of June.

Over the course of 15 hours, spread over three days, groups of up to 15 refugees who will travel to Canada, aged between 12 and 65, learnt about life and culture in what will be their new country by means of games and interactive tasks. To date, the beneficiaries of the COA have been Colombians whose concerns include dealing with the cold weather in Canada, how to learn English or French, how to find work in their new country and adapting to Canadian society.

With the assistance of the IOM COA network, that includes colleagues in Nairobi and Bogota, we have held COA sessions with excellent results, as shown in the participants’ expressions of joy when completing the orientation programme on the third day. The COA sessions provide refugees who are to be resettled in Canada with realistic expectations about how their new life will be, while offering a place where they can express their concerns and obtain clear answers about their new country.

The first group to participate in a Canadian Orientation Abroad in April 2014 has now travelled to Canada. Particularly noticeable was their positive attitude before and during the trip, evidenced in their comments to IOM staff who helped in the process.
**AGENDA**

**CONFERENCE ON RETURN MIGRATION AND REFUGEES WITHIN THE HUMAN MOBILITY FRAMEWORK**

On June 12 and 13, the Conference on Return Migration and Refugees within the Human Mobility Framework was held in the National Assembly. IOM was represented by Maria Isabel Sánchez, who took the role of moderator in the Refugee Roundtable discussions. Speakers included representatives of UNHCR and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS).

The purpose of the conference was to gather ideas and experiences based on the analysis of the reality of migrants, returnees and people living as refugees within the framework of economic and social re-insertion in both Ecuador and the countries of their residence and/or origin.

The conference sought to illustrate the challenges arising from the new conception of human mobility and propose equal treatment between nationals and people in different mobility situations, thus eliminating xenophobia, discrimination or stereotyping.

The encounter provided for an open dialogue between the panellists and the civil society organizations to jointly analyse contexts related to globalization and the effects of public policy, their experiences and the results of implementation in terms of migrant returnees and people living as refugees.

**ORANGE DAY TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

On June 25, IOM participated in the Orange Day, organized by the United Nations System in Ecuador to promote the Elimination of Violence against Women, which will be commemorated on the 25th of each month.

On this date, the attendees – who wore orange – highlighted issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls worldwide.

November 25 is the official International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. However, the United Nations has proposed designating the 25th day of each month to commemorate and strengthen actions to eliminate this type of violence.

IOM was active in June, continuing to work with the local government of Imbabura in the second Socialization Workshop of the “National Unified Protocol for the Protection and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking” on June 2 and 3, an event attended by 26 participants representing public institutions, shelters and other related entities.

Socialization workshops continue to be provided on the Canton Agenda for the prevention and punishment of human trafficking and the integral protection for Victims to ninth and tenth grade students in the "Juan Pablo II" school.

On June 5 a total of 132 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 14, received awareness training related to the issue of human trafficking and how to prevent it.

Finally, on June 24, together with the Municipal DAG of Ibarra, the first workshop for participatory development of the "Draft Ordinance Against Human Trafficking in the Canton of Ibarra" was held. The event was attended by public officials and representatives of institutions involved in this problem.
On June 9, 16 members of IOM Ecuador, comprising employees, interns and consultants, received an awareness-raising session on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse as part of a number of activities to strengthen the IOM Standards of Conduct and their application with reference to our commitment to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable people.

The session was prepared using material provided by the Geneva HQ, but was further enriched by the contribution of colleagues and workers from several other missions. The event served to reinforce the commitment of those of us working for IOM to confront and prevent any questionable practices not forming part of the IOM mandate by applying a zero tolerance policy regarding activities, inappropriate behaviour or conduct that involves the sexual exploitation or abuse of persons requiring our protection.

This workshop was given by Rogelio Bernal, IOM Chief of Mission in Ecuador.

On June 2, 2014, the IOM Chief of Mission, Mr. Rogelio Bernal, was welcomed to the session of the Provincial Public Security Council of Sucumbios by the Governor of the Province, Mr. Edison Proaño, with a view to socializing IOM actions, particularly the Programme Against Human Trafficking, currently being implemented in the Canton Lago Agrio. Rogelio Bernal described the participatory development process of the ordinance project against human trafficking being undertaken with the institutions and organizations comprising the Anti-trafficking roundtable of the Canton of Lago Agrio to the authorities present. He also reported on IOM’s participation in the canton’s Security Council to follow up on its progress on the issue of trafficking.

On Monday, June 2, 2014, a protocol meeting was held between the IOM Chief of Mission, Rogelio Bernal and Vinicio Vega, the recently elected Mayor of the Municipal DAG of the Canton of Lago Agrio. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Mayor, Flor Jumbo and two of the town’s recently elected councillors. The IOM Chief of Mission spoke on various projects underway in the canton (Assistance Programme for People Seeking International Protection and the Programme Against Trafficking). The Lago Agrio DAG committed to continue working and strengthening these areas of cooperation to benefit the local population.
Julio Villavicencio learned that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) manages the Migrations Assistance Programme in Ecuador through Latino Australia.

"Among the benefits are the friendliness and speed with which I was attended, as well as the facilities they offered me to buy an air ticket". The service is very good. I was treated with a lot of consideration, courtesy and respect.

After graduating as a Mechanical Engineer from the Chimborazo Polytechnic, Julio decided to study abroad.

Obtaining a scholarship required much determination, and he is sure that all the effort will be rewarded with knowledge that will help him excel in his professional field and enable him to contribute to Ecuador’s growth when he returns.

"What’s more, I think the experience of studying abroad, surrounded by a new culture, customs and language, will completely change the way I perceive the world around me and help me to grow as a person," he added.

"Leaving our comfort zone and entering the area of learning is very important if we are to succeed. I think that if we love what we do and we work hard we can go far. My advice is to dream and strive to get there".

Having used the OIM service, Julio has no doubts that he would recommend it. The organization provides help to applicants with transport to their new country, which makes the experience more accessible.

"This was my first experience. I trusted and everything worked out well. Thanks to IOM”. At the end of July, Julio Villavicencio will travel to Sydney to begin his Masters in Engineering, Manufacturing and Management at UTS (University of Technology Sydney).