



July – December 2016 Number III

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*Established in 1951, IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.*

## IOM Madagascar Builds National Border Management Capacity

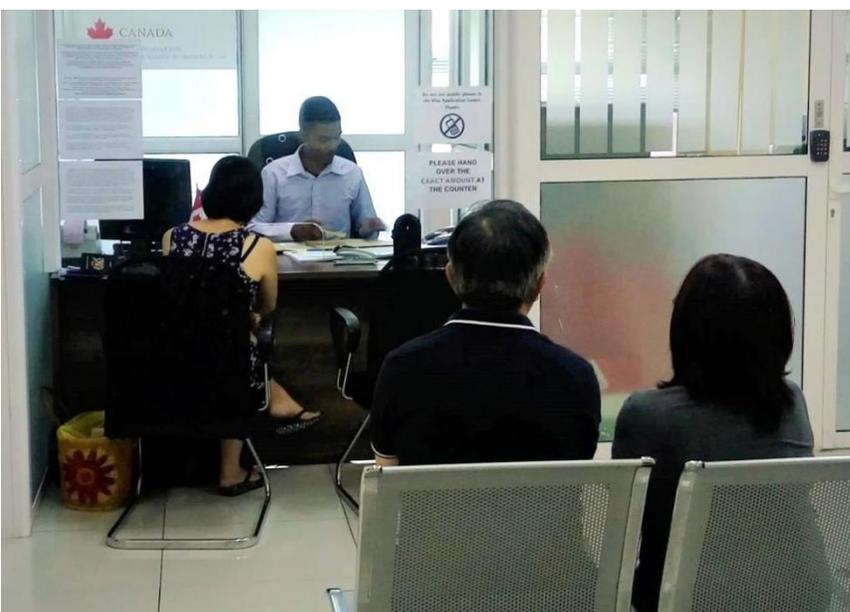
In July 2016, IOM Madagascar held in cooperation with the Directorate for Intelligence, Immigration and Emigration Control of the Malagasy Ministry of Public Security, a five-day training workshop on “Travel Documents: Control and Safety”. The training was facilitated by a border management expert from IOM’s [African Capacity Building Center \(ACBC\)](#) and focused on procedures for travel documents control, usage of verification equipment, and on applicable international norms and standards

Participants included representatives from the Border Police; and Units Specialized on Investigations and Document Fraud Detection at the Ministry of Public Security; and from the Directorates of Protocol and Information Management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IOM has long recognized the importance of travel documents and the critical role of immigration and border control officials in handling such documentation at key stages of the migration process. The appropriate use of valid travel documents and the presence of capable border control officials who have been fully trained in document examination constitute a cornerstone of safe and orderly migration.



For more info and photos visit [our FB page](#)



## Canada Visa Application Center - Mauritius



Did you know? The [Canada Visa Application Center \(CVAC\)](#), operated by IOM in Mauritius, is the exclusive service provider for the Government of Canada, authorised to accept applications for visas in all temporary resident categories (visitor visas, study and work permits) and travel document applications from Canada’s permanent residents in Mauritius. At the CVAC, our Client Service Assistant answers questions in local languages and makes sure that applications are complete; transmits application documents and passports to the visa office securely; collects biometrics; and return passport and decision documents securely. IOM has been operating the CVAC in Mauritius since 15 November 2013, and the table below presents the performance figures for the year 2016.

	Total	Monthly Average
Number of Visa Applications	1442	120
Number of Passport Transmission Service	782	65
Number of Visitors	4676	390

## IOM – IOC Exchange Knowledge on Migration and Health during SEGA Network Workshop in Réunion Island

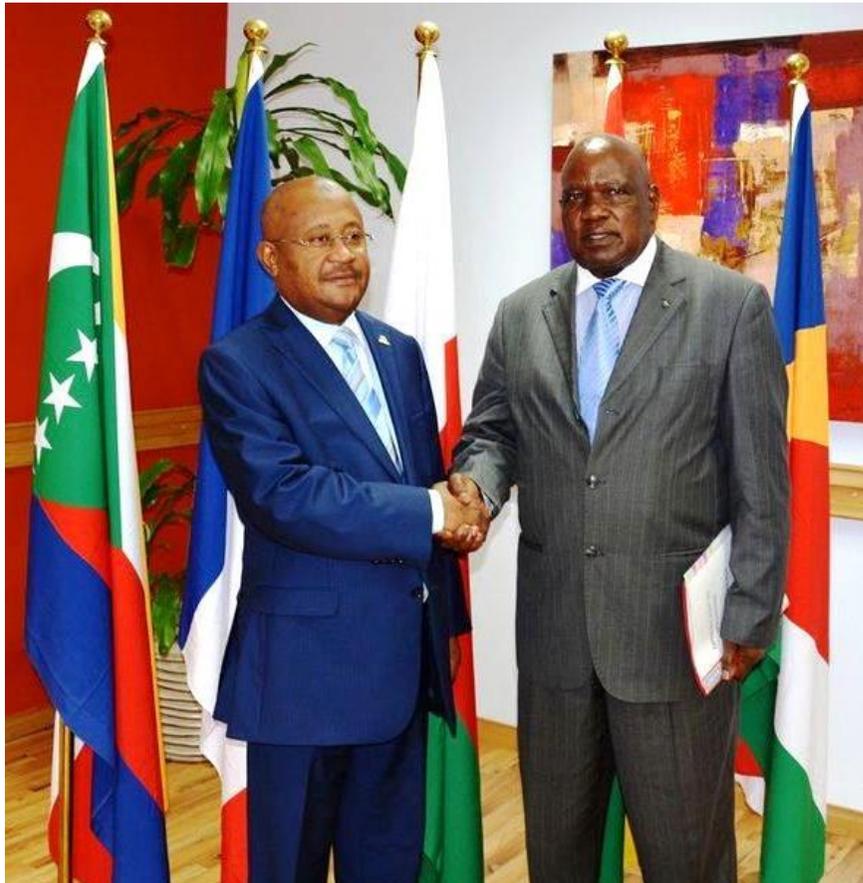
The Epidemiological Surveillance and Early Warning Management Network project (SEGA project), implemented since 2013 by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is a health surveillance project to help reduce the risk of epidemics in the south-west region of the Indian Ocean. It focuses on the establishment of a regional epidemiologic monitoring network to coordinate the response, and aims at building the national capacity of IOC Member States to monitor epidemic-prone diseases and respond to epidemics. A Regional Technical Working Group workshop was held between 12 – 18 October 2016, at Saint Gilles, Reunion Island and included discussion of progress made in different SEGA surveillance network under the “One Health” Initiative.

This technical workshop on human and health surveillance within the IOC was attended by lead Epidemiologists, Medical microbiologists, Entomologists and Medical Laboratory Technologists from various research institutes, and delegates from Health Surveillance units within the Ministries of Health in the Seychelles, Madagascar, the Union of Comoros, Réunion Island and Mauritius; as well as representatives from IOM, World Health Organization (WHO), the Pasteur Institute.

IOM was invited to present and facilitate a knowledge exchange session on its broader mandate on Migration and Development, Migration and Health, and the importance of integrating migration and mobility variables into health monitoring systems. Experiences from IOM’s work in Southern Africa and the role of internal and international migration in relation to communicable and non-communicable diseases was also shared. The session also demonstrated that evidence on migration for developing migration sensitive policies at the national level can be generated from national data such as the Census and national surveys such as the Demographic and Health Survey.

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## IOM’s Regional Director Visits Consolidate IOM’s Partnerships throughout the Western Indian Ocean



Between October and December 2016, the IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa, Mr Josiah Ogina made his first official visits to the islands of the Western Indian Ocean. The RD, accompanied by the Head of Office of IOM Madagascar and Mauritius Mr Daniel Silva y Poveda, travelled to Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles where they met with senior governmental stakeholders to review the cooperation between IOM and the countries, and discuss further way to deepen engagement on migration governance.

In October, the Regional Director travelled to Madagascar where he addressed the meeting of the COMESA Intergovernmental Committee and shared a vision for “*an integrated region that will become reality with freer movement of goods, services, and most importantly freer movement of people.*” While in Madagascar, the Regional Director met with the Malagasy Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Employment, and the Minister of Environment.

During his visit to Mauritius in November, the Regional Director had the occasion to meet the Minister of Environment and the Coordinator of the United Nations System in Mauritius. The IOM delegation paid a courtesy call to the recently appointed Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Mr Hamada Madi Bolero to congratulate him on his appointment and to reaffirm the interest of IOM to advance the cooperation between the two organizations on matters of mutual interest as charted by the Cooperation Agreement signed between IOM and the IOC in 2014.

## From Mauritius to Italy – Henry realized his dreams thanks to the Circular Migration Programme

A seaman at heart, Mr. Henry Mike Desmarais is a fisherman since his young age. This proud-looking man has participated in the programme implemented by IOM and co-funded by the European Union and the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy – “Facilitating a Responsible and Effective Management of Circular Migration from Mauritius to Italy.”

He travelled to the town of Goro in Central Italy in 2015 where he was trained in the field of aquaculture by Italian specialists. In December 2016, IOM went to meet him to collect his first hand impressions on how this trip broadened his horizons and motivated him to undertake new professional challenges. *“I really appreciated the Italian mindset and the respect that was shown to us. It was a great honor to learn from them and understand fishing and the fish trade in Europe.”* An orphan, and coming from a poor family himself, Mr. Desmarais is proud of his daughter who has started university.



He is a self-made man and has fulfilled his dreams since his return from Italy:

open his own fish shop. This was made possible thanks to the subsidy that he received from the project that gave him the chance to invest in his activity buying refrigerators and fish cutting machines. Moreover, with the help of his wife, who left her job at the factory to join him in his adventure, Mr. Desmarais fishes and buys fish daily, which he then sells to restaurants and hotels around the island. His work is much appreciated among restaurant owners and his customers are very faithful, his business growing day by day. We wish him good luck for the future!



## The Labour Migration Assessment in Madagascar is Released to the Government and the General Public

Findings from the labour migration assessment in Madagascar that was conducted between March 2016 and July 2016 were presented on November 16, 2016 through a half day restitution workshop. The event was attended by the Minister of Employment, Mrs Lydia Toto Raharimalala, representatives of the President and the Prime Minister Offices, representatives of various Malagasy Ministries involved in labour migration management, and delegates from the diplomatic corps in Madagascar. The labour migration assessment constitutes a key deliverable under the ongoing “Strengthening Labour Migration Management in Madagascar” project, which is implemented by IOM jointly with the Ministry of Employment since October 2015.

The research, conducted by a national consultant recruited by the IOM, focuses on the analysis of the political, regulatory, legal and administrative framework of labour migration in Madagascar. It is based on a qualitative research conducted in four regions of Madagascar that are known to be important places of origin of the migrant workforce (Analamanga, Atsimo Andrefana, Boeny, and Diana). The study underlines the need to consolidate the national legal framework on labour migration, to strengthen the inter-ministerial coordination structure and clarify institutional roles and responsibilities centrally and at the level of decentralized entities, to simplify and clarify procedures for would be migrant workers, and to ensure transparency of recruitment and placement activities.

Acknowledging these challenges, and determined to improve the governance of the sector, the Minister of Employment called on all governmental and non-governmental partners to align themselves to the highest level of engagement and to join efforts to ensure that the reality of labour migration is linked to the benefits of the migrants themselves, and to ensure that well managed labour migration can be a force of good.



Etat des lieux sur la migration de travail à Madagascar

## IOM Builds Policymakers' Capacity on the Issues of Migration, Environment and Climate Change in Mauritius

IOM Mauritius, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management, held a national “Policymakers’ training workshop on migration, environment and climate change,” between 11 and 13 July 2016 within the framework of the EU funded Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECLEP) project. 19 policymakers from various ministries and governmental agencies with a stake in environmental migration, including; environment, climate change, development, disaster management and planning, social affairs and the statistics office participated in the workshop. The Director of Environment, Mrs. S.L Ng Yun Wing welcomed the holding of this workshop as “Mauritius is no stranger to the complex nexus between migration and the environment.”

On the basis of the existing and ongoing research, it aimed to build capacity of policymakers and practitioners on the migration-environment nexus, offer practical guidance on policy formulation and programmatic action, especially on migration as an adaptation strategy to environmental and climate change, and allow for an exchange of knowledge, practices, and experiences. Prior to the training workshop, a national-level Country Assessment was conducted in 2015 to identify the opportunities and challenges of migration in building resilience against climate change, followed by a researchers capacity building workshop for the selected MECLEP survey team, EMPRETEC Mauritius, which was held between 25 and 28 April 2016. The survey team conducted a national household survey to collect new evidence on the issues of migration, displacement and relocation in the face of environmental and climate change over the months June and July 2016 in 3 selected sites in Mauritius and Rodrigues, whose preliminary results were presented during the Policymakers workshop.

The workshop supported by the IOM Development Fund led the participants to propose a series of environmental and climate policy recommendations, drawing from the acquired knowledge on environmental migration and based on their respective areas of expertise. Three pilot programmes, relating to disaster response and adaptation, livelihoods options in the face of slow onset events as well as response to forced migration were also drawn up. It is foreseen that the key policy and the pilot programme recommendations derived from the workshop will be further discussed during a high level dialogue platform in early 2017.



## IOM Trains Seychelles Officials on Labour Migration

Seychelles is primarily a destination country for labour migrants who fill the gaps for both highly qualified and low-skilled labour demand. The country has seen over the recent years an increase in the number of non-Seychellois workers in key areas like construction, tourism, manufacturing and other booming sectors. While migration is generally acknowledged as beneficial to the country’s development, it is also recognized that rapidly changing trends can impact the socio-economic profile of the country. IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development of the Republic of Seychelles (MLHRD), supported a two-day training workshop on labour migration, and a half-day roundtable on migration management in the Seychelles’ capital, Victoria, from 4-6 October 2016. The labour migration workshop was attended by 22 participants from the Ministries of Labour and Human Resource Development, Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs; the Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics, Public Health Authority, and the private sector.

The workshop focused on the relationship between international labour migration and development; covering international cooperation mechanisms and tools for the facilitation of labour migration and exploring ways to ensure integration and protection of migrant workers. Participants concluded the training with a roundtable discussion on migration management; examining the challenges, gaps, needs and opportunities relating to migration management in the Seychellois context.

The Government of Seychelles has launched various initiatives to manage the participation of foreign workers in the local labour market and the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development plans to develop and implement in the near future a labour migration policy that will address the migration management and development policy gap by providing a coherent and effective framework of action at national level. Mr. Trevor Louise from MLHRD stated that the workshop will enable all delegates to be more pro-active on labour migration, especially since his ministry is in discussion to draft the policy on labour migration, and that “this training was based on policy labour migration in the context of Seychelles.”

## IOM and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Engage with the Malagasy Diaspora

On 2nd September 2016, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, IOM Madagascar in collaboration with the Malagasy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, held a presentation of the findings for the profiling research on the Malagasy diaspora in France.

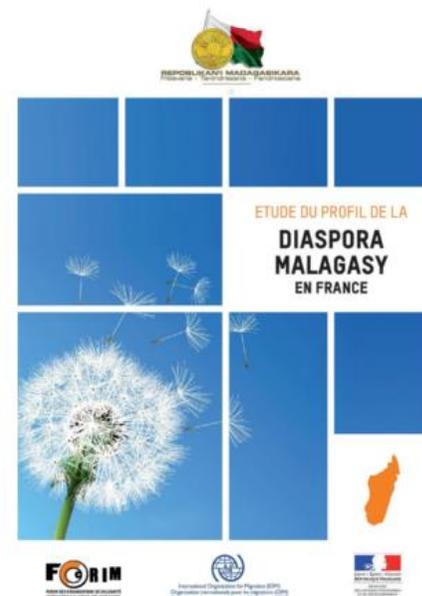
The study funded by the French Embassy in Madagascar was conducted between April and August 2016 by the [Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations \(FORIM\)](#), under the technical supervision of IOM. The research was based on a mixed method approach, which triangulated desk review of relevant literature, quantitative surveys of individual members of the diaspora, and qualitative interviews with representatives from diaspora associations, and key informants.

The study examined, through a socio-cultural and economic perspective, the historical and demographic evolution of the Malagasy diaspora in France, its ongoing and intended contributions to development initiatives in Madagascar, and the hindrances limiting those contributions. The study report presents short and medium-term recommendations that will inform the development by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of its diaspora engagement and mobilization action plan.

The study underlined the significant potential of the Malagasy diaspora, which is predominantly highly qualified and counts with more than 240 associations in France. Indeed, the diaspora averagely holds a high level of education, skills, and expertise, which the Government could channel in different ways to benefit development and investment initiatives in Madagascar. In fact, the diaspora in France accounts for between 100.000 and 140.000 people and it is considerably active (in the mere 2013 the remittances sent to Madagascar were estimated at 86 million euros). The majority of cash transfers are performed by individuals and contribute to the budget of their families in Madagascar. Still, when the remittances pass through diaspora associations they are mainly addressed to solidarity initiatives in the fields of health and education.

“The Diaspora has a leading role in the new orientation of the country's foreign policy” commented Mrs Lanto Rahajarizafy, Director of the Diaspora at the Malagasy Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighting that “Mobilization of skills and talents from the Malagasy diaspora will be the core of the national policy on diaspora engagement”. By developing further dialogue between the diaspora and key national institutions, the Malagasy Government could foster the engagement of the diaspora way beyond the mere money transfer.

To read the Diaspora Profile report on the Malagasy Diaspora in France [click here](#) (version is in French)



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