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**TIME TO GIVE BACK: LOHARANO PROGRAM'S VOLUNTEERS ARRIVED IN MADAGASCAR**



**Prevention of Health Epidemics**



Over April and May, IOM has handed over to the Ministry of Health, equipment constituting 10 Kits for the Health Screening Points (HSPs). The handover is part of the broader action of IOM under the CERF project on early response to the Plague and enables public health stakeholders to quickly activate epidemics control measures alongside major mobility corridors and around key cities.

[Read more about it!](#)

**VOT Repatriation**

In April and May 2019, the Government of Madagascar and IOM supported the repatriation of a record number of 140 female victims of trafficking to return to Madagascar, who also received shelter assistance, medical and psychological assistance with the support of the Australian Government's Direct Aid Program (DAP) and of IOM's Emergency Fund.

**Evaluation of the National Action Plan on the Fight against TIP**



In June 2019, IOM supported the National Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Madagascar in holding a national conference of evaluation of the first National Action Plan on TIP, gathering over 80 Government representatives from the country's 22 regions, UN agencies, and Civil Society Organizations.

**The LOHARANO Programme for Youth Diaspora Volunteers Breaks Ground**

On 12 April, the LOHARANO programme for youth volunteers from the Malagasy Diaspora was launched during a press conference organized in Antananarivo by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Communication and Culture, and IOM. This programme – the first of its kind – seeks to create and develop a space for exchange and interaction between the Malagasy Diaspora and institutional stakeholders in Madagascar, as well as to entice a constructive engagement between the Diaspora and the general Malagasy population. For the programme's first edition, 15 youth volunteers will be selected from all applications received from Malagasy residents in France, the BENELUX (Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxemburg), Switzerland, USA, and Canada. They will spend three months volunteering in Madagascar from the start of July and will be placed in rural communities to share their experiences, knowledge, and centres of interests in support to local development priorities. In a world characterized by growing mobility and migration dynamics and globalization, Diasporas represent increasingly relevant and potent actors of development. With an estimated Diaspora of between 75,000 and 200,000 Malagasy nationals living abroad, Madagascar can leverage this formidable human resource potential for its sustainable development.

**Ivato Airport Coordination Centre: Exchange Information, Analyze Data and Respond Effectively**



Over the past 3 years, IOM Madagascar, together with four other UN agencies, has supported the Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Madagascar. This project, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), has presented the big challenge of involving the various actors in finding new ways to conceive the security sector in relation to the country's borders. Amongst the landmark achievements, a Coordination Centre at the Ivato airport was set up, where for the first time airport entities sit and work under one roof and exchange sensitive data on security, health, intelligence, and trade issues and develop analysis to respond quickly to the risks that arise in everyday work. In the airports of Mahajanga and Nosy be, IOM has installed the border management system MIDAS (Migration Information and Data Analysis System) which allows the collection of sensible data from travellers' passports and their fingerprints, allowing the police to compare the biometric information of travellers with multiple databases. The data collected help to develop statistics useful for all purposes from security to tourism, and trade facilitation. Though this project, we did something more than delivering trainings and donating materials, we built the path towards a better cooperation among border management entities and we enabled them to see beyond their different mandates, to move forward towards a better border management in Madagascar.

## Fight against Rural Banditry



IOM recently completed two of the five forward posts of Gendarmerie in the great South of Madagascar. In the two communes of Andranambao and Antaramena, banditry is finally part of the past.

[Read more about it!](#)

## Botswana Study Tour

From the 6 to 8 May, IOM Mauritius facilitated a study tour for a Botswana delegation to exchange views regarding labour market and migration issues of each country.



## IOC Ministerial Conference on Maritime Security

On 17 June, the Regional Director for Southern Africa delivered a speech at the Roundtable on the Action taken by the International community, Mauritius and the IOC on Maritime Security at the University of Mauritius.

## First IRIS Employers Training in Mauritius

IOM Mauritius organized a one-day awareness raising workshop for the private sector on 9 May 2019 on the themes of labour mobility and ethical recruitment; and a one-day IRIS training for employers in the private sector on 15 May. This consultation workshop was held in partnership with the Mauritius Export Association (MEXA).

Many business representatives from various sectors (construction, manufacturing, textile industries) attended this activity and welcomed it enthusiastically. This workshop aimed to raise awareness and support capacity-building of the business sector in the Indian Ocean region through two initiatives by the IOM: the Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking (CREST) and the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS). Given the important contribution of the foreign workers to the Mauritian economy and the challenges associated to it, the IOM seeks to engage with the private sector on labour migration challenges to build strategic partnerships to establish labour mobility mechanisms which balance various stakeholders' interests and address the migrants' needs.

Two IOM experts led the first workshop on the best practices, integrity in labour mobility and ethical recruitment, stressing that, in the absence of well-planned and managed labour migration, migrants in global supply chains remain particularly vulnerable to modern slavery and related abuses. The second workshop was a participative activity involving businesses targeting employers from key sectors focusing on the transparency of international recruitment, the employers pays principle, IRIS certification for recruitment agencies and the importance of branding Mauritius as an ethical and sustainable destination.

## Migration, Deception and Reintegration: Sara's story

Meet Sara (Fictitious name), a Mauritian migrant whom IOM assisted to come back to the island safely in May 2019, through the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme. Seeking a better life for herself and having no family ties holding her back in Mauritius, Sara sold all her belongings and embarked on a journey to Belgium with the assistance of a 'trusted friend'. Upon arrival in Belgium, Sara had unfortunately fallen victim to her 'friend' who trafficked her. After a few months, she managed to tell her situation to someone and was informed that IOM could assist her.

Through the AVRR programme she returned to Mauritius, where she found herself in a precarious situation, with no family, house or job. However, with the reintegration grant from the AVRR programme and effective support from IOM, Sara secured housing, utilities and essentials within a few weeks. Despite the struggles, the programme gave her hope and courage to start afresh and within a month following her return she managed to find a job and become financially independent. She urges caution to those travelling abroad, to use regular pathways and is thankful to IOM for the assistance provided to return safely to Mauritius and most importantly finding a stable life.

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