



IOM: Gender Equality in action - I



“MIDA encourages women from the diaspora to invest not only their resources, skills, and training – but also their hearts and souls into the development of their home countries.” -- Hamiddah

Hamiddah Aden* is one of 151 Somali technical consultants from the diaspora who have been deployed by IOM on short term capacity-building appointments in Somali government institutions, under the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) project. Despite security constraints, IOM made specific efforts to involve female experts and deployed 22 women in various assignments, over a three-year period. For example, one consultant helped the Ministry of Family Affairs and Social Development to implement the National Gender Policy and Action Plan. Women experts are also engaged in non-stereotypical occupations (e.g. as IDP and Returnee Advisor, Institutional Development Expert, Immigration Advisor, doctors) thereby acting as role models for other women and sensitizing men. The MIDA programme aims to strengthen institutional capacities of African governments to manage and realize their development goals through diaspora engagement.

Read more at: <http://iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/IOM-Somalia-MIDA.pdf> * name changed to protect her identity



How can migrant mothers stay in touch with their children left behind? In Ukraine, IOM targeted some high-migration regions where up to 1/4 of children are growing up with one of their parents – often the mother - working abroad. IOM invested in field-based research and took a number of steps to reach out to these families as well as improve key local actors’ – such as teachers, psychosocial workers and local NGOs -- knowledge about the needs of these children. IOM also organized “Creative laboratories,” using theatre, role playing and arts as well as sport events and theatre shows, to help several hundred children in Ukraine explore and express their feelings about their parents’ absence. Working with local authorities both in Ukraine and Italy - a major destination country for Ukrainian women migrant workers - IOM provided equipment and training on using Skype to children, teachers and migrant mothers. These mothers, many of whom are domestic workers and caregivers, also benefited from focus groups and psychosocial support where they could openly talk about the impact of the separation from their families on their wellbeing. **Read more at:** <http://ow.ly/qx6Df>

These women are learning to weave rattan products for sale thanks to the IOM Vietnam “Strengthening Capacity of Women along the Central Mekong Delta” project.

The project aims to support the economic empowerment of women in the area and reduce their vulnerability to trafficking and HIV. IOM and its partner, the Women’s Union of Dong Thap have trained 380 women from poor and disadvantaged families....

In addition to rattan weaving, the trainings covered vocational training in animal husbandry and cultivation. Thanks to these stable sources of income, these women no longer worry about having enough food for their children. They even manage to save money to pay for schooling and health insurance.

Read more at: <http://ow.ly/pWhp9>





Balquee is proudly posing inside her freshly-painted, new hair salon in Erbil, Iraq. IOM's in-kind grant allowed her to expand her business and stop working out of her home. She was provided with new chairs, hair drying machines, tables, curling irons, and a generator. She has come a long way since she was forced to abandon the salon she owned after fleeing from Baghdad seven years ago. IOM's Community Revitalization Programme (CRP) provides supplies, start-up funding, and business training to promote the socio-economic inclusion of IDPs and returnees facing specific vulnerabilities.

Read more at: <http://iomiraq.net/Documents/CRP%20serving%20Iraq's%20greatest%20needs.pdf>



Because women in conflict-torn areas of D.R. Congo are particularly vulnerable to rape and sexual assaults when they travel long distances to fetch water, IOM has constructed several water pumps close to police stations. It also has trained police officers specialized in sexual violence cases to increase protection, prevention and address sexual and gender-based violence. Public messages against rape and impunity are visibly posted in these areas and empower victims to speak out

Read more at: <http://ow.ly/nwrkl>



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Contacts:

OSIRE Mary-Sanyu , IOM Somalia | mosire@iom.int

ZHLUKTENKO Varvara , IOM Ukraine | vzhluktenko@iom.int

DANG Thuy Hanh , IOM Vietnam | hanhdang@iom.int

TANTARUNA Luz , IOM Iraq | ltantaruna@iom.int

DE BONA Erika, IOM DRC | edebona@iom.int