



IOM PROVIDES TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS IN CONTAINING THE OIL SPILL

IOM Responds to Oil Spill in Mauritius

IOM and UN Partners mobilized resources to provide technical support and expertise to support the Government of Mauritius in containing the oil spill which resulted from the sinking of the bulk carrier MV Wakashio on 25 July 2020, and to mitigate the impacts of the ecological disaster on the local communities and their livelihoods. IOM, as part of the Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact Team led by UN Resident Coordinator, assessed affected areas and the socio-economic impacts of the ecological disaster on the livelihoods of communities in the South-eastern part of the island.

Consequently, Mr. Charles Kwenin, Acting Chair of the UN Regional Sustainable Development Group for Eastern and Southern Africa and IOM Regional Director (RD) for Southern Africa, visited Mauritius to show support to Mauritius during the environmental disaster and launched the United Nations Recovery Fund (UNRF) estimated at USD 2.5M. The RD was on mission along with a team of IOM experts to assist in Disaster Risk Reduction and Building of Local Capacity in line with International Standards and assess long-term impacts on the vulnerable communities and their livelihoods. In this regard, IOM, as a UN agency, designs projects to combat socio-economic instability and address the problems of population displacement.

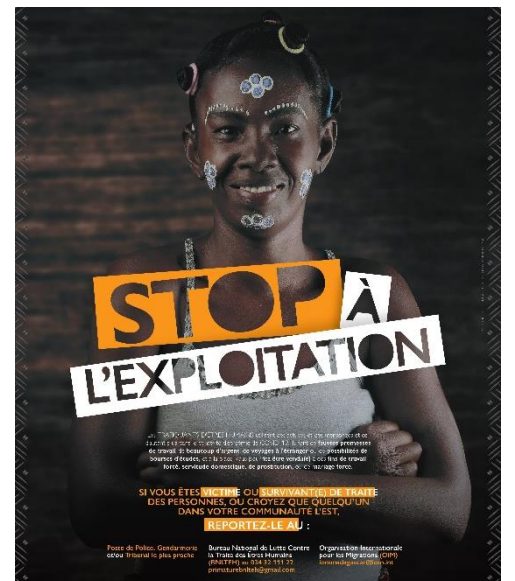
[Read more about it!](#)

Integrating Migration in Urban Planning and Development in Madagascar



While migration is broadly recognized as a leading contributing factor of the sustained urbanization trend that has affected cities large and small in Madagascar in recent years, migration trends to cities – with the complex opportunities and challenges it brings – is not yet adequately integrated into urban planning and development standards and tools. Through the “Mainstreaming Migration into International Cooperation and Development project (MMICD) funded by the European Union, and implemented by IOM in close coordination with the Ministry of Land Management and Public Works (MATP); IOM is supporting the conceptualization and testing of a new guideline that will accompany and complete existing standards and tools for the process of elaboration of the “Plan d’Urbanisme Directeur” or PUDi (Master Urban Development Plan), to ensure that the next generations of PUDi duly consider and integrate migration.

Counter Trafficking in Madagascar



On the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (TIP), celebrated on 30 July, IOM launched an awareness raising campaign on increased risks and vulnerabilities to TIP in Madagascar in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more about it!](#)

Rural Development and Migration

Within the MMICD project, IOM launched in September 2020 a participatory process of evaluation of strategic documents and policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries to measure the extent to which migration is considered in the development of recent policies and to recommend entry points for the development of subsequent such documents.

Customs Capacity Building

As part of the REACT project, funded by the Government of Japan, and implemented in collaboration with the Malagasy Customs, IOM finalized the selection of a qualified international provider for the acquisition of six detection dogs and the conduct of on-site training for dog handlers for the establishment of the first canine brigade, that will combat illicit trafficking.

In September 2020, IOM and the MATP made a field visit to the pilot city of Ambalavao – Region of Haute Matsiatra, to kickstart the process of rolling out and field-testing the new drafted guideline as part of the development of the PUDi for this medium-sized city that experiences complex migration trends. Following this participative process and based on the inputs received from a range of local and regional stakeholders engaged in the field of urban planning and development, the new guideline will be finalized and validated at the end of the year.

[Read more about it!](#)

Mainstreaming Migration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in Madagascar and Comoros

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – or UNSDCF, is the single most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNSDCF represents the UN development system’s collective offer to support a country in addressing key SDG priorities and gaps and serves as the core accountability tool between the UN and the host Government.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that migration is a powerful driver of sustainable development. Migration brings significant benefits in the form of skills, strengthening the labour force, investment, and cultural diversity, and contributes to improving the lives of migrants, their communities of origin, and communities of destination. However, if migration is poorly governed, it can also negatively impact on development. Migrants can be put at risk and communities can come under strain. Madagascar and Comoros are both in the process of formulating their multi-year UNSDCFs, respectively for the period 2021 – 2023 and 2022 – 2026. Between July and September 2020, IOM has been closely engaged with national stakeholders in the various preparatory and formulation stages of the UNSDCFs of the two countries, to ensure that migration trends, opportunities and challenges are effectively mainstreamed into the respective cooperation frameworks, and enable a development that leaves no one behind.

Finding the Way Back Home Amidst a Pandemic



“Back in my country, an agent told me that he knows people in Mauritius who can give a good job and I was lured with the attractive salary. When I arrived here, it was a very different story”, Mark (fictitious name) expressed during an exchange with IOM staff. He came with a dream to embark on his career and earn some money to help his family, to later realize that this is not what he was promised. Mark spent his days and nights trying to find his way back home. The COVID-19 pandemic only worsened his journey in Mauritius.

Mark contacted IOM for assistance and the missions in Mauritius and Ghana assisted with the return and reintegration to his country of origin under the Global Assistance Fund. In September 2020, with the support of the Mauritian Authorities and the Ghanaian Consulate, Mark successfully found his way back home. “I am very grateful for the help I received from IOM, especially from its kind staffs. I will surely warn youngsters about the risks of being misled to protect others from going through what I have been through.”

Peacebuilding in the Menabe Region



IOM recruited the NGO Fanoitra, an expert in gender issues, to set up and strengthen the capacities of 10 women's groups, from local and migrant communities, in the Menabe region, that will have a key role in mediating conflicts between locals and migrants over access to resources.

Internal Migration Observatory

Under the REAP project, funded by the UN PBF, IOM Madagascar is setting up an Observatory on Internal Migration with the Malagasy National Centre for Research on the Environment, to conduct and disseminate research on migration and to support political decision-makers to better understand and respond to complex internal migration patterns and their multisectoral effects.

Counter Trafficking in Mauritius

IOM Mauritius held a Press Conference with U.S Embassy to launch the project entitled ‘Improving TIP referral Outcome in Mauritius and Comoros’, funded by the United States State Department’s Bureau to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons.

Diaspora Mapping



On 01 July 2020 - IOM Mauritius started the pilot Mapping and Profiling of the Mauritian Diaspora in Canada, Australia and the UK, to be completed by the end of December 2020. This exercise aims to better understand diaspora members in order to set up specific programs according to their expectations.

[Read more about it!](#)

Migration Governance

IOM held a virtual inter-ministerial consultation on the Migration Governance Indicators profile for the Republic of Seychelles.

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