



IOM TRAINS BORDER MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL ON COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT MORONI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Building Border Management and Health Surveillance during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Comoros

Under the framework of the regional “Southern Africa Migration Management” project, funded by the EU, IOM provided technical and material support to reinforce border management and health surveillance systems and capacities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to enable controlled and safe mobility to and from the Comoros – an island State highly dependent on air transportation. On 14 and 15 December, IOM, in collaboration with WHO, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Health, organized a training workshop that included a live simulation exercise at the international airport, to familiarize all the key stakeholders with appropriate protocols of passengers screening in the context of COVID-19. In addition, IOM handed over prevention equipment for COVID-19 to frontline personnel from key border agencies.

An Internal Migration Observatory is Set Up in Madagascar



On 04 December, as part of the REAP project funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), IOM and the National Center for Environmental Research (CNRE) inaugurated the Internal Migration Observatory. The Observatory will be the first research center and the first platform of reference, exchange and capacity building on internal migration in Madagascar. Its goal will be to produce and disseminate, in Madagascar and abroad, research on migration to develop the breadth of knowledge on the topic and its many ramifications. The research will allow contribute to support in building capacities of authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in order to better address migration in policymaking at the national and regional level. IOM facilitated the setting up of the Observatory by providing IT and office equipment and financing the conduct of two research on internal migration, foreseen to take place in the first semester of 2021.

[Read more about it!](#)

Reforestation Activities in the Menabe Region



In order to replant 100 ha of primary dry forest in the Menabe region of western Madagascar, IOM, together with the association SAVE, engaged 200 migrant and local women. Reforestation activities of 200.000 plants will be conducted at the end of January 2021, as part of the REAP project, financed by PBF.

Virtual Diaspora Series

From 28 November to 12 December – IOM held 3 Virtual Dialogues – streamed live in Facebook - with the Mauritian Diaspora around various topics to engage with and understand their expectations about future relationships they wish to have with Mauritius.

Migration Governance Indicators



In October, Madagascar and Comoros joined the 67 countries that have already taken part in the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) process, a tool for assessing national structures that helps identify policy levers that can be used to strengthen migration governance.

Counter-Trafficking

IOM, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Interior, launched on 17 December the project “Improving TIP Referral Outcome in Comoros” through an awareness meeting and restitution of the mapping of national stakeholders’ actions in relation to TIP.

Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF) and International Migrants Day (IMD) 2020 in Mauritius



On 17 December, IOM collaborated with the University of Mauritius (UoM), the British Council and Rabindranath Tagore Secondary School (RTSS), to screen a documentary produced by UoM students, portraying experiences of several migrants in Mauritius. The film sparked captivating discussions with high-level guests, including Mr. Paul Choy, renowned documentary photographer and storywriter, and Mr. Bentley Brown, director and producer of the movie "Revolution from Afar", which was also screened on the occasion. RTSS students were invited to present their slam and poetry on the theme of migration. On 19 December, IOM joined the High Commission of Bangladesh in Mauritius at the event with migrant workers dedicated to the IMD. On 20 December, IOM and the Confédération des Travailleurs des Secteurs Public et Privé (CTSP) also hosted the GMFF and IMD celebrations. A short video highlighting the experiences and contributions of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic in Mauritius (produced by CTSP and IOM) was screened. The screening was followed by an open discussion, inviting workers to share their views and challenges faced during 2020 as well as their hopes for 2021.

[Read more about it!](#)

IOM and the CUA Integrate Migration in the Urban Development of Antananarivo

IOM and the Urban Municipality of Antananarivo (CUA) launched in December the 21-month project "Integrating migration in sustainable and inclusive urban development in Antananarivo". Funded by the IOM Development Fund (IDF), the project will support the development of a migration governance strategy linked to urban development, based on reliable information on migration realities encountered in the CUA; and will assist the implementation of pilot operational responses to the challenge of migrants' integration in resident communities.

The project takes place in a global context where migration and urbanisation increasingly influence each other. The rapid rise of urbanisation around the world, and particularly in Africa, presents both challenges and opportunities for migrants and resident communities. Antananarivo, as the economic and socio-cultural hub of the country, constantly faces the challenges of unmanaged migration, which tends to exacerbate pre-existent difficulties in the urban area.

A Successful Reintegration



In search of a better life abroad, Mike and Emily (fictitious name) left Mauritius in early 2019 with their 3 children. After spending a few months at a friend's place who ensured them that they would have a roof over their head and a job, they found themselves helpless when that same friend chased them out. Having no resources left, the family called for assistance to return to Mauritius.

The couple benefitted from IOM's support for their reintegration in Mauritius, and were provided with basic necessities, such as beds and school supplies for the children, and some essential cooking appliances. The family also received IOM's assistance for setting up of a business. Having the know-how and the appropriate space, Emily decided to reopen her father's long closed grocery shop. Thanks to the assistance provided by IOM, the family has opened their shop in 2020 and became financially independent.

Community Stabilization Activities in South-East Madagascar

In order to strengthen trust between security forces and local populations in South-East Madagascar, IOM, under PBF-funded project ProSud, has contracted the NGOs TKI and ABRA to carry out dialogue, sports and cultural activities throughout 2021 in 4 regions of the Grand Sud.

Repatriation of Stranded Migrants



With support from the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom, 75 vulnerable Malagasy migrant workers who had been stranded for nine months after losing jobs or being kicked out by employers, returned home from Saudi Arabia on Wednesday 09 December via a flight chartered by IOM.

[Read more about it!](#)

Border Management

Under the project "Institutional strengthening and capacity building of frontline entities and personnel in charge of border management in Comoros", IOM held two trainings, on International Migration Law and Integrated Border Management, and handed over border management equipment to the Ministry of Interior.

Equipment for the Gendarmerie



To prevent displacement caused by banditry, IOM Madagascar has provided the Gendarmerie (as part of the ProSud project, funded by the PBF) with radios, computers and an inflatable boat, which will enable the gendarmes to reduce travel to remote sites from several days to a few hours.

[Read more about it!](#)

Rural Development and Migration

The presentation of the results of the evaluation of Madagascar's agricultural policy (PSAEP) organized by IOM on 11 December showed that the new vision of the Ministry of Agriculture, according to the Initiative for Madagascar's Emergence (IEM) is consistent with the PSAEP. However, efforts are needed to integrate migration into its implementation.

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