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WE CARE FOR THOSE WHO MOVE, WE CARE FOR THOSE WHO STAY



Migration Governance Indicators for Mauritius

The Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) operates as a benchmarking framework and assists countries in assessing the comprehensiveness of their migration policies, as well as in identifying gaps and areas that may need improvement. The MGI Country Profile for Mauritius will help advance conversations on migration governance by taking a definitive step towards clarifying what well-governed migration as in target 10.7 of the SDGs might actually look like.

Migration Environment and Climate Change



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The results of the study conducted in Marovoay, the second research site for the country-level assessment in the framework of the MECC project, revealed alarming environmental impacts but also serious land issues underlining social conflicts, following the installation of migrants coming from Southern Madagascar.

Border Management

The preliminary results of Madagascar's Border Management Assessment were presented on December 2017. In 2018 IOM will support the implementation of selected Assessment's recommendations such as the upgrade of two pilot border spaces in terms of equipment, materials, infrastructures and trainings.

Escaping the Drought of the South: Hope and Sacrifice

It will soon be two years since the three sons of Soazara, a 56-year-old widow, left Bekily village to go to the other end of the Island, in Sambava, hoping for a better life away from the ruthless drought of the South. All three separated from their wives, left their children with Soazara, who also cares for their other two brothers.

The three sons lead a difficult life, more than 1000km from their native village, to provide for the needs of the large family. During the day, they engage in small trades and then work night shifts as guards, earning up a meager 10USD that is sent monthly to Soazara. They had wanted to cultivate land in Sambava, earning more money and working in better conditions but this did not happen.

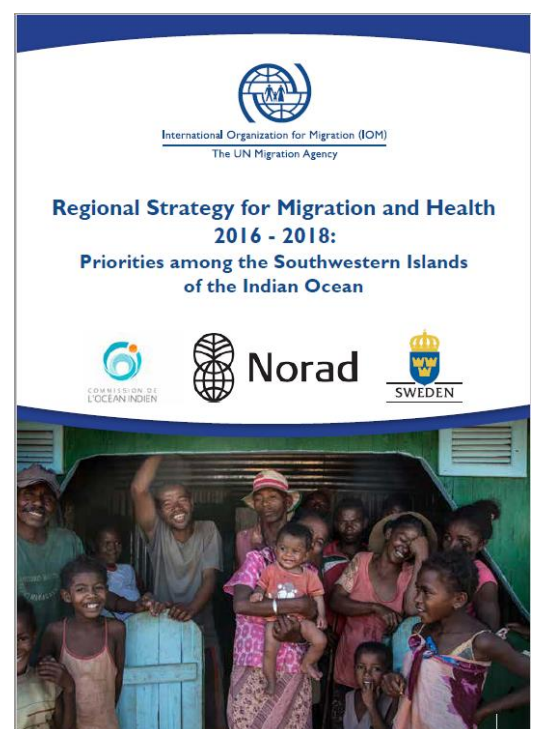
Their earnest desire is to return home and be with the family. Leaving from Bekily, they had never considered their absence would be prolonged, but they still hope to one day find this piece of fertile land for which they have left everything.

Launching of the Regional Strategy on Migration and Health

On 15th December 2017, IOM together with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) launched the Regional Strategy for Migration and Health 2016 - 2018: Priorities among the Southwestern Islands of the Indian Ocean in Mauritius in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

The Strategy introduces the innovative concept of migration and health in the sub-region, and will contribute to strengthen cooperation to reduce migration-related health vulnerabilities. It is the first of its kind to address intersecting migration and health issues in the sub-region. With this Strategy, IOM aims to support the IOC and its Member States to ensure migrants' well-being according to specific targets and through evidence-based programmes; a good public health practice that reduces long-term health and social care costs, facilitates integration and enables equal development.

The event also provided an opportunity for technical experts and stakeholders to foster dialogue among stakeholders to consider and facilitate future implementation arrangements, while also contributing to the global agenda on migration and health.



Counter-Trafficking



More than thirty law-enforcement officers, fifty police trainees and fifty social workers have been trained in prosecution of trafficking in persons' cases and on victims' protection in Madagascar.

Displacement Tracking Matrix



In the South of Madagascar, drought-induced displacement also affects education; 80% of recorded school absences are related to parental travels in the 116 Fokontany assessed.

New initiative in Madagascar:

As of 1st December, IOM joins forces with UNDP under a PBF-supported initiative to strengthen the rule of law in Southern Madagascar. The new initiative implemented around the District of Betroka will seek to strengthen the presence and capacities of security forces and build confidence between the forces and the local populations they serve.

The Global Migration Film Festival Showcases films that Capture the Promise and Challenges of Migration

Each year, the Global Migration Film Festival showcases films that capture the promise and challenges of migration for those who leave their homes in search of a better life. To encourage dialogue, festival events combine free screenings with testimonies, debates, panel discussions and art exhibits. The festival's first edition in 2016 gathered over 10,000 people, with 220 screenings in 89 countries. In 2017, the festival ran from 5 till 18 December in over 100 countries, including Mauritius and Madagascar.

Together with the Lycée des Mascareignes in Moka and Middlesex University's campus in Cascavelle, IOM Mauritius screened five films on 4, 6, 7 and 8 December for some 300 high-school and university students and involving four external speakers, including two lecturers from Middlesex University's School of Media and Performing Arts, a representative from the Migrant Workers Support Organisation – a Mauritian NGO – and a representative from Phelisanang Bophelong – an NGO involved in the day to day implementation of IOM's "TB in the Mining Sector" project in Lesotho.

In Madagascar, IOM in collaboration with the French Institute of Madagascar (IFM), organized projections during the 18th December and inaugurated the temporary photo exposition "the faces of human trafficking", by photographers Mat Li and Heidi Yanulis.



IOM Supports Safe and Dignified Voluntary Return of Comorian Migrants Stranded in Libya

A flight chartered by IOM in Libya, landed on 21 December at the Moroni International airport, with 89 Comorian migrants, including one unaccompanied migrant child, and thirty women. Most of the stranded migrants were held under horrendous conditions in detention centres in the Tripoli region. The returnees were welcomed by representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Health, Social Affairs, and by a delegation of IOM headed by the Chief of Mission to Madagascar, Comoros, and the Seychelles. Upon their arrival, returnees were provided with immediate assistance, including medical attention, by government stakeholders, and buses were arranged to take them to their villages of origin. Over the next months, IOM will assess the returnees' situation on a case by case basis to help them find alternatives and ensure their sustainable socio-economic reintegration in the Comoros. As of the end of December, IOM had assisted just under 18,000 voluntary humanitarian returns from Libya to various countries of origin in Africa and Asia in 2017.

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