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IOM SUPPORTS EMPOWERMENT OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING THROUGH LONG-TERM REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES



Bianca Manacorda © IOM 2020

### Regional Maritime Security



In January 2020, IOM launched a regional project to support the Western Indian Ocean Maritime Security Mechanism. Activities aim to promote maritime governance on migration issues and to combat transnational maritime crime in Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros.

### Peacebuilding and Community Stabilisation

In January 2020, IOM, UNDP and UNFPA launched a 24-month, 3,5 million USD project to strengthen peace and security in the South East of Madagascar. IOM will build and equip 4 forward posts for the local Gendarmerie and will carry community stabilization activities to foster trust between local communities and security and defence forces.

### UNSDCF Development Process

IOM actively participated in the Common Country Assessment (CCA) for Madagascar, the preliminary phase to the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), by sharing the Organization's experiences and expertise on migration as a powerful driver of sustainable development, and on mainstreaming migration into strategic development frameworks.

### Upgrading of VOTs' Shelter



The sudden influx of transnational victims of trafficking (VoTs) in 2019 highlighted the limitations of the Ministry of Population's

### Pilot Initiative to Address Internal Migration-induced Threats to Peace and Social Cohesion Launched in Madagascar

The 18-months "Responding to threats to peace and social cohesion, supporting the empowerment and promotion of women in Madagascar" (REAP) project funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for an amount of 1.5 million USD and implemented by IOM and UNDP, was launched in early 2020. Migration from the South of the country, induced by land degradation and local economic hardship there, has grown more important and complex over recent years, leading to an important influx of migrants in areas to the West and Northwest of the country, where migrants and their families – often for lack of better alternatives – have been responsible of important deforestation associated to damaging agricultural practices; and which in turn has led to tensions and social conflicts between migrants and resident communities.

In a first of the kind, the REAP project focuses on internal migration in Madagascar, by working simultaneously in one key area of origin of internal migrants (Androy), and in one key area of destination of internal migrants (Menabe); through a set of pilot activities that will aim to reduce the influx of migrants in the Menabe by promoting community stabilization initiatives in the Androy; to reduce the pressures on economic and natural resources in the Menabe region by accompanying migrants into sustainable livelihoods diversification; and to promote a shared space and interaction to support cohesion building and mitigate conflicts between migrants and resident communities.

### IOM Hands Over Rehabilitated Training Site to the Comorian Ministry of Interior



Within the framework of the project "Institutional strengthening and capacity building of frontline entities and personnel in charge of border management in the Comoros", funded by the IOM Development Fund (IDF), IOM rehabilitated and equipped a training site within the premises of the Comorian Ministry of Interior. This infrastructure will be used for a series of capacity building sessions for frontline border management personnel, in an enabling and conducive training environment. On 5 March 2020, IOM and the Ministry of Interior inaugurated the training site. The event was attended by members of the Government, the diplomatic corps accredited to the Union of the Comoros and other high-ranking dignitaries and officials. The main objective of this project is to contribute to the efforts of the Comorian authorities with regards to border management capacities upgrade, in line with best international practice and standards.

[Read more about it!](#)

"Mitsinjo" shelter. With support from the US State Department, IOM has expanded the centre's capacity to an additional ten beneficiaries to provide secure temporary shelter and care to identified VoTs.

### Malagasy Diaspora Engagement

In the framework of the LOHARANO programme for young people from the Malagasy diaspora, an interactive and informative visibility tool was produced by IOM. To engage members of the diaspora, more than a thousand copies were sent to Madagascar's embassies, consulates and permanent missions in Africa, North America and Europe.

### Economic Empowerment of VOTs



On 11 February 2020, in collaboration with the Ministry of Population, and with support from the Government of Australia, IOM organized a one-day roundtable to stimulate discussion on the underlying vulnerabilities of VoTs and VoTs socio-economic empowerment through their reintegration process.

### Data on VOTs Assisted in 2019

With support from the Government of Australia, the US State Department and IOM Emergency Funds (EF), in 2019 IOM assisted 122 VoTs. IOM supported national authorities in the identification process and provided victims with shelter, emergency needs, mental and physical health care and socio-economic reintegration plans.

### Radio Interview on Migration

On 29 February 2020, the Head of the IOM Office in Mauritius and Seychelles gave an interview on 3ZZZ, an Australian radio station for the Mauritian diaspora, to discuss IOM's project on Mauritius' engagement with its diaspora.

## Seychelles Joins Leading Countries in Rolling Out of its Migration Governance Indicators

Following the confirmation from the Government of Seychelles to participate in the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) roll-out for the year 2019 - 2020, IOM, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Civil Status launched the process through a half-day introductory meeting, on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at the STC Conference Centre, in Mahé, Seychelles. The meeting's objective was to provide a clear understanding of the MGI, the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders throughout the process but most importantly the benefits to be reaped from the MGI.

The MGI process developed in 2015, has been rolled out in about 50 countries to assess national migration governance frameworks. The process is a global joint effort led by IOM and the Economist Intelligence Unit, together with Governments, to collect migration data, analyse trends and identify areas of potential further development in migration governance. The analysis leads to a Migration Profile, which provides authorities with insights on policy levers that can be used to enhance and strengthen migration governance, as well as achieve the country's national and international commitments, such as – in the case of Seychelles – the upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) which is planned for later this year, and where the MGI may feed the VNR on the progress in achieving some of the SDG targets.

[Read more about it!](#)

## Second Chance



Nathalie left Madagascar in 2016 in search of a better future, not for herself, but for her daughter who had just started college and needed the financial means to continue. In Kuwait, her country of destination, she encountered terrible working conditions and a very low and rarely paid salary. When she managed to return home in April 2019, she was diagnosed with blood pressure problems because of the stress and workload she had experienced in Kuwait. IOM helped her by providing medical assistance and a range of vocational training.

"The assistance made me realize that as a woman we can and should be independent". She said in a recent exchange with IOM staff. The benefits of the assistance on her self-confidence were reinforced by the interaction with other beneficiaries who shared very similar stories. "During the assistance process, I met a lot of women who have experienced the same situation as I did, I started to open up to others, to communicate, to share, to help people. In spite of what we went through, I now know that we are not the only ones who have gone through this, and that we can help each other."

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