



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM
in the UK

newsletter

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No. 23, December 2009

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European Solidarity Funds Celebration

On 7 October 2009 IOM London was invited to attend a European Solidarity Funds Celebration and Communication Event hosted by the UK Border Agency. Some 100 participants, including NGOs, UK Border Agency and other government officials attended the event in which IOM was invited to make a presentation on the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VAARP) and stories of return, and had a booth displaying information materials. Since 1999 IOM UK has assisted over 30,000 people to return to some 140 countries. Dee Bourke, Director of Central Operations and Performance, Immigration Group at the UK Border Agency said: "I am delighted to meet the project teams who were funded by the European Solidarity Funds during 2007 and 2008 and who put such energy and commitment into delivering often life-changing projects. The presentation ceremony was a fitting end to an event which was a true celebration of the European Solidarity Funds in the UK and offered great incentive to prospective applicants to bid in the future."



From left to right: Clarissa Azkoul, Chief of Mission (IOM UK), Dee Bourke, Director of Central Operations and Performance, Immigration Group (UKBA), Elizabeth Hammersley, Resources Management Administrator (IOM UK) and Marek Effendowicz, Head of Communications (IOM UK)

Belarus delegation visits the UK and IOM offices in London

IOM London together with IOM Minsk facilitated a Belarus immigration capacity building study tour on Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programmes for irregular migrants and failed asylum seekers from 16-18 November 2009.

The Belarus immigration delegation comprised of Tanya Orange, IOM Minsk AVR and Operations specialist, and four delegates from the Department of Citizenship and Migration of the Ministry of Interior and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

Our Chief of Mission, Clarissa Azkoul, welcomed the delegates and provided them with an introduction to IOM London's activities.

Marek Effendowicz, Head of Communications, then presented the AVR programmes. IOM Leeds also accompanied the delegation during a visit to Lindholme Immigration Removal Centre near Doncaster.

On the following days, the UKBA introduced the delegates to the work of the AVR and the Facilitated Return Scheme units, the Border Force, the National Document Fraud Unit and of a local immigration reporting centre.

IOM hosted similar migration study visits in July 2009 for a Slovakian delegation and in September 2009 for Hungarian delegates.



New IOM Campaign urges Consumers to Buy Responsibly and Help End the Demand for Exploited Labour

On 19 October 2009, IOM launched a new campaign on the Third EU Anti-Trafficking Day and the start of a European Ministerial Conference on global EU action against human trafficking in Brussels urging consumers in particular to play a greater role in the fight against human trafficking.

Encouraging the public to question 'What Lies Behind the Things We Buy?', the campaign, designed by Saatchi & Saatchi in Geneva, hopes to kick-start a change in consumer behaviour.

"For too long the belief has been that poverty and gender discrimination are root causes of human trafficking, which can only be tackled at source. This is short-sighted," says IOM Director General William Lacy Swing. "Quite simply, human trafficking is driven by the demand for unreasonably cheap labour and goods from around the world."

As well as a television spot for broadcasters to air, the "Buy Responsibly" campaign was launched at Place Schuman in Brussels with an enactment of the spot involving an inverted giant shopping trolley imprisoning models representing trafficked migrant workers.

Consumers are encouraged to visit www.buyresponsibly.org to find out more about human trafficking for labour exploitation and what they could do to end it.

Ageing populations, falling birth rates and labour force participation in industrialized countries coupled with an over-supply of labour in developing countries without sufficient channels for legal migration, have paved the way for human traffickers to profit from the demand for cheap foreign labour and services.

Some estimates put the number of people in forced or bonded labour and sexual servitude in the world at any given time at 12.3 million.

Although the focus has largely been on the issue of trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation, greater incidences are emerging of trafficking for labour exploitation involving all ages and both sexes.

Figures from IOM's Global Counter Trafficking Database, which tracks and details assistance provided by the Organization to victims of trafficking, show that over the past 11 years, IOM has assisted an increasing number of people trafficked for labour exploitation with the largest increases in the last five years. This has largely involved men and boys trafficked to work in the agricultural, construction, fishing and domestic service sectors.

Up until now, global counter trafficking efforts have mainly focused on prevention and post-rescue assistance in source countries with little work done to tackle the equally critical demand side.

"Some sectors of an economy, such as construction and agriculture, depend on irregular cheap labour for growth and profits. But economic growth shouldn't depend on exploitation," IOM Director General says.

Despite the best efforts by all those involved in countering human trafficking, the indications are that it is at least widespread today as it was ten years ago.

"Clearly this is not acceptable. A change in mindset and practices among consumers and businesses alike needs to occur," Swing adds.

Several concrete and far-reaching steps can be taken to achieve this. They include regulating the informal sector in destination countries to ensure workers are brought

under the protection of labour laws; making business and employers legally responsible for human trafficking and migrant exploitation in their supply chain; encouraging the creation of ethical employer associations adhering to codes of conduct guaranteeing the rights of migrants and workers and providing more legal channels for migration. Equally essential is raising awareness among consumers of products and services provided by trafficked and exploited labour.

For IOM Director General, "consumers who are increasingly demanding fair trade have the power to end labour exploitation by buying responsibly and getting business to rethink how it operates. It's also in the interest of business to ensure its supply chain is not using trafficked or exploited labour. This can make a huge difference in countering human trafficking. There is no time to waste."



IOM DG at the London Launch of UNDP's 'Human Development Report (2009)'

William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, was invited to the official launch of the UNDP Human Development Report (2009) entitled *Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development*. The event took place at the London School of Economics on Monday 5 October 2009.

In his introductory remarks, Mr Swing said the following:

We are grateful to UNDP for providing us with the opportunity to contribute to this Report through representation on the Report's Advisory Panel, hosting an IOM secondment to the Report writing team and supporting various consultations over the past year.

Though yet in its early days, the Third Millennium looks destined to be, in sheer numbers, the age of the greatest human mobility in recorded history.

- Were today's 212 million international migrants to come together to form a single nation, they would be among the five most populous nations in the world.
- If pooled together, their annual remittances of some \$300 billion would constitute a combined GDP larger than many developed countries (or about the size of Switzerland, host to IOM headquarters).
- Remittances from migrants, who still constitute only 3% of the world's population, are twice as large as Official Development Aid (ODA) and nearly two-thirds that of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in developing countries.
- The economic and social contributions of migrants have long been a factor in both global economic recovery and in the achievement of long-term development goals for both developing and more-developed countries.
- This, in a nutshell, is the timely message of the Human Development Report which advocates lowering the barriers to the movement of people and improving the treatment of the movers, that is internal and international migrants.
- At a time of economic downturn when the positive contributions of migrants to society have been called into question and when Governments have started to think about migration in counter-cyclical terms, hardening their attitudes towards migrants and sending them home, this Report (the first from a major United Nations agency) is timely indeed.

Migration and Development

IOM currently works with its 127 Member States and partner inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, through its field offices worldwide (more than 400) and active projects (more than 2,000) to promote orderly and humane migration which bolsters social and economic development.

IOM's programmes which specifically address **development** range from:

- assisting governments to devise national migration legislation and policies consistent with international standards; to
- training officials in the full range of migration law and policy;
- building technical capacities to strengthen institutions;
- assisting and protecting migrants in need;
- promoting diaspora engagements in development;
- facilitating inter-state dialogue and cooperation; and
- researching emerging migration issues.

For further information, please visit:
www.iom.int

London Conference about reparations and peace-building in Sierra Leone

'The reparation needs of Sierra Leone's civilian victims of war must not be overlooked if there is to be real peace-building in the country', IOM said on the eve of a donor and investment conference for the West African country in London. The conference, which took place on 18-19 November at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, was a critical opportunity to help redress some of the worst consequences of the human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law during the 1991-2002 conflict. Such redress would also ensure that public anger at the lack of reparations, which has been undermining peace and reconciliation efforts, would abate. The setting up of a reparations programme, a key recommendation of Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2004, has taken time, not just because of the difficulties in defining the worst atrocities and in identifying the most vulnerable among the war victims, but crucially in raising the funds to provide eventual and actual assistance.



This woman sustained shrapnel wounds. She is unable to do many physical tasks, has restricted movements in her upper arms, suffers from insomnia and is in constant pain. She cannot be operated upon because there is no working CT scan in Sierra Leone.

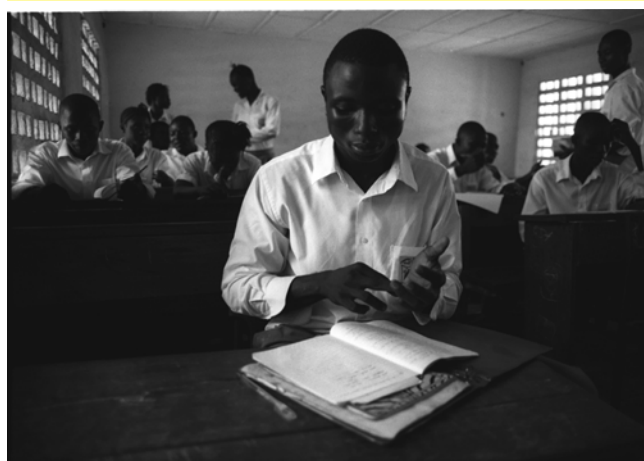


This 6-year old's mother was twice abducted by rebels during the war. They used her for sex and for carrying bombs. From the sexual abuse, she has difficulty walking and has HIV. Her daughter can't go to school because she does not have money to pay for her uniform or her books.

"The war ended seven years ago. Ex-combatants who committed the atrocities benefited from disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the immediate aftermath of the conflict. But it is only this year that work began to acknowledge the atrocities that were inflicted on civilians, including women and children," said Norbert Wühler, IOM's head of reparations programmes.



The woman in the above photo had both her arms hacked off by rebels who caught her while she was out fetching food. Now she lives in a camp for amputees with only her daughter to care for her.



This 19-year old boy still remembers how his father pushed him out of a window to save him from rebels. From behind a bush, he watched his whole family being burned alive in their house.

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