

MIGRATION

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Losing THE TRAGEDIES OF Hope IRREGULAR MIGRATION At Sea



IOM International Organization for Migration

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

CONTENTS

3 ■ EDITORIAL
Looking at the Bigger Picture in Migration

5 ■ IRREGULAR MIGRATION
Mother Courage Fights Irregular Migration in Senegal

8 ■ IRREGULAR MIGRATION
La Bella Vita? The Italian Irregular Migration Experience

11 ■ LABOUR MIGRATION
The Politics of Taking Migrant Labour off the Black Market

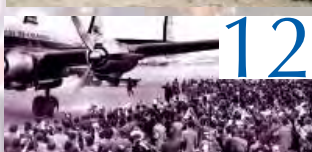
12 ■ FEATURE SECTION
The Hungarian Uprising

19 ■ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT
Bleak Future for Iraq's Displaced

22 ■ INDONESIA'S DUAL DISASTERS
Rising from the Rubble

24 ■ HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Engaging Business to Fight the Business of Human Trafficking

26 ■ HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Mekong Movie Results in Fewer Shattered Dreams



EDITORIAL

By Brunson McKinley, IOM Director General

This year more than others, the issue of irregular migration has dominated the headlines and political agendas across the world. The constant media coverage in particular of African migrants arriving on the Canary Islands has overshadowed the bigger migration picture on this side of the Atlantic. But what is the bigger picture?

Migration is a catalyst for change and development, and in a world that is changing at a lightning pace, not harnessing the power of migration is short-sighted.

When IOM was established in 1951, its constitution underlined then that migration and economic development went hand-in-hand. Many countries, such as the United States, have been built on immigration while traditional emigration countries, such as Ireland and Italy, are witnessing boom economies thanks largely to migrant labour.

Nevertheless, the arrival of more migrants in search of work in the developed world, particularly those without work permits, continues to cut deep social and political schisms – even in countries with a long history of immigration.

Irregular migration is a symptom of the failure to adequately address migration in the globalization equation. The freedom of movement for capital and goods does not apply to the global labour market except for those with skills and professions.

We know that people today are prepared to travel much larger distances using more complicated and convoluted means and routes in search of a better life. We also know that a lack of legal migration options has driven many to use an ever-increasing number of smuggling networks to realize their dreams – even if they lose their life in the process.

Irregular migration also means social problems in host countries where low-skilled migrants compete with native counterparts for jobs, while their irregular status leaves them open to exploitation and forced to exist on the margins of society. It is a situation that does little to enhance social cohesion at a time when security is of major concern to all.

Looking at the Bigger Picture in Migration

“ Migration is a catalyst for change and development, and in a world that is changing at a lightning pace, not harnessing the power of migration is shortsighted. ”

For IOM, however, a key issue is labour migration. The challenge is the creation of a more open global labour market where it will be possible to effectively match the supply and demand of labour globally using a medley of policies and approaches. This includes the use of temporary migration schemes and the encouragement of circulatory migration which would see the return of skills and human resources home to promote greater development in a migrant's country of origin. To do this, issues of demography, market dynamics, social integration and cultural identity have to be tackled.

There is no disputing that the developed world has already entered an era

of labour shortage. In Europe alone, the workforce is expected to decline by another 20 million by 2030. Similar forecasts for other developed regions including countries like Japan, South Korea and the Russian Federation, contrast sharply with projections of growing populations in much of the developing world. The global work force of the future, if not already the present, will largely be drawn from the second and third world countries and is a fact of life that developed countries have to take on board in their economic and social planning.

Some already have. The battle among developed countries for an insufficient pool of skilled migrants, such as in the health and IT sectors, has been raging for many years. However, there is also a mismatch in the supply and demand of low-skilled workers – a group essential to any economy but less readily acceptable to host societies.

IOM has already been looking at how best to address this issue of matching supply and demand. Together with various governments, we have carried out several programmes doing exactly this in specific sectors in various countries such as Italy, Canada and Spain.

The success of these and the clear need for something on a larger scale has led IOM to take the bull by the horns and develop an ambitious initiative which is presented with the support of the World Bank at the UN's High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York this September. The International Migration and Development Initiative (IMDI) aims to get to the very heart of labour migration by starting to tackle the “unfinished business” of globalization.



At its core would be a mechanism that would facilitate the matching of labour demand and supply by enhancing global knowledge of labour market trends, labour force profiles and labour migration trends through research and the creation of databases. It would also create a centralized and transparent information source on regional and national migration laws and regulations for individuals, businesses and countries to use to help them in their migration and recruitment processes. Being able to compare different legislations could also be a decisive factor in a migrant's choice of where to go and work.

Governments could also be helped to formulate national employment policies responding to the needs of a domestic labour market factoring in immigration as well as the emigration of workers. Such policies would also incorporate the development of human resources

within a country to better address both the internal and external demand for labour in the present and the future. All of this is critical to tackling the challenges and benefiting from the opportunities presented by the global labour market.

Crucial also to the success of such an enterprise is the committed involvement of all key players, including the private sector, whose knowledge and expertise has all too frequently been neglected in the migration debate until recently. The private sector is instrumental in helping to identify the global labour market of the future.

By involving business, greater strides can also be made in promoting ethical recruitment standards which would limit the brain drain factor in developing countries. It would also help ensure that migrants in host countries are treated fairly and humanely.

Cracking the labour migration nut would have a domino effect too appealing for many to ignore. Irregular migration would be curtailed and the need for smuggling networks currently doubling up as de facto recruitment agencies would decline.

With so many potential benefits to solving the labour migration question, the world can ill-afford to continue with a fragmented, uncoordinated and ad hoc approach. A creative and fresh look is what is needed. At IOM, it is a challenge we have taken up as the Organization looks to the future. **M**

MOTHER COURAGE FIGHTS IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN SENEGAL



▲ My dearest wish is to pray where the boat sank to allow the soul of my son to rest in peace, says Yayi Bayam Diouf.

For the nearly 30,000 irregular migrants who have reached the shores of the Canary Islands in small wooden boats so far this year, a countless number have drowned en route. Countering irregular migration into Europe from Africa has become a top political priority for several European countries, but for bereaved families, stopping their men from leaving on the boats has also become a matter of life and death. As IOM plans to launch an information campaign in Senegal warning potential migrants of the dangers of irregular migration, IOM's **Jean-Philippe Chauzy** meets a Senegalese women's association that is tackling the issue head on.

Strong westerly winds blow relentlessly on Thiaroye-sur-mer, a small impoverished fishing community of closely knit white shacks and sandy streets on the edge of Senegal's capital Dakar.

The westerlies bring the sound of the nearby crashing surf. But also the memories of loss and grief for hundreds of mothers, wives and sisters who lost their sons, husbands and brothers at sea as they tried to reach Europe's distant shores.

A group of middle-aged women chitchat in Yayi Bayam Diouf's small courtyard, sitting on colourful woven mats. They are part of a women's group Yayi created to fight irregular migration after she lost her only son in March – called the *Association des femmes pour la lutte contre l'immigration clandestine*.

Yayi is a courageous and determined woman. She says that instead of just crying and thinking of her lost son,



Photos: Jean-Philippe Chauzy/IOM

she decided to fight back to stop more young men dying at sea.

She sits in a cramped room, which has become her office and the meeting point for 357 distraught women who regularly find solace in each other's company and support.

"We call this *cousinage*. It's the best way we have found to try and come to terms with the tragedy that has befallen us," says Yayi.

Clutching a faded photograph of her 26-year-old son, she says she last spoke to him only hours before he embarked on an overcrowded traditional pirogue in the Mauritanian port of Nouadhibou for

the perilous two-day sea journey to the Canarys.

"Alioune Mar called me to ask that I pray for his safe passage to Europe. But my prayers were left unheard. He drowned somewhere off the coast of the Canarys with 80 young men. Their bodies were never recovered."

She says her son paid 400,000 FCFA (US\$800) to smugglers who promised a safe passage to the Spanish archipelago. But soon the pirogue took water and experienced engine failure as it got caught in a storm. A second boat, which left Nouadhibou at the same time, sailed on to try and get help. But when it returned several hours later,

only fuel drums and personal effects were visible, drifting on the long and powerful Atlantic swell.

"The women of Thiaroye are desperate to go and pray where the boat sank to allow the souls of the drowned to rest in peace," says Yayi. "This is part of our healing process. We've begged for this but to no effect so far."

Coming to terms with such tragic losses is even more difficult because many women believe they didn't do enough to dissuade the men from leaving. Yayi says some women are overwhelmed with guilt because they sold jewellery and household items to finance fatal voyages.



Women wait expectantly for news of male relatives who have tried to reach Europe's distant shores by sea.

Women say the men were desperate to leave Thiaroye, where unemployment among the 45,000 strong community is said to exceed 80 per cent.

"Ten years ago, everyone was employed in the fishing industry," says Aby Samb, whose son Matar was recently expelled from Spain. "We all made good money selling our fish as far away as neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso. But we wasted all our savings on lavish ceremonies for christenings, weddings and burials."

Others say ageing pirogues and fishing equipment, overfishing by foreign trawlers and the use of narrow-mesh nets by local fishermen have almost emptied the waters of their high-value catches.

"So we became very poor. A few years ago, men found jobs working on European trawlers. They earned good money and helped the families back home," says Yayi. "This fuelled a desire to leave at all cost and by whatever means possible. Near bankrupt fishermen started making good money as more and more pirogues left from Thiaroye and from other fishing communities along the Senegalese coast."

She adds that in a society in which polygamy is permitted, women who are repudiated by their husbands often have to rely on sons to provide for them. This, according to Yayi, puts additional pressure on elder sons to find lucrative employment abroad.

Several of the women in Yayi's courtyard have joined the Association because they have had no news of their male relatives for many months.

Fatou Ndoeye's son Abdou Rahmane left for the Canarys last February. She has not heard from him since. Fatou carries his photo in the folds of her traditional boubou to show visitors, hoping that someone will finally tell her what has become of him.

"Fatou cries a lot," says Yayi. "Everyday she goes around the neighbourhood asking for news of him. When a phone rings, she thinks he is calling her." Then she whispers softly: "But after nine months, there's little hope."

Aita Gueye was a week old when her father Siny, a 25-year-old welder from Thiaroye, decided to leave for Europe.

His young wife, Arame Leye, says he stepped on a boat knowing he was embarking on a perilous journey but he did so "because he wanted to provide for his daughter and extended family".

Every week, the Association holds meetings with the young men of Thiaroye to try and persuade them not to emigrate clandestinely.

"I tell them that out of a hundred men who have left, 50 have died at sea, 25 haven't given news of their whereabouts for more than nine months, ten have been sent back from Spain, and the rest are probably in camps or have made it to Spain where they are without a proper job. So in the end, it's better to stay here," says Yayi.

young irregular migrants is Baye Mandiane Fall, a famous wrestler from Thiaroye who holds cult status in Senegal.

The Association also works to support the mothers and wives whose caretakers have died in the crossing. Every member of the group pays monthly dues of 1,000 FCFA (US\$2). Women also meet on a daily basis to make couscous and fresh fruit juices which they sell to make extra money. Others buy fish to resell locally, although Yayi says several women have stopped doing this "because it's the sea that swallowed their sons".

The money is collected in a *tontine*, an informal form of saving and credit arrangement based on mutual trust seen in many parts of West Africa. Credits of



▲ Ageing fishing equipment and overfishing by foreign trawlers have almost emptied the waters of high-value catches.

She adds that no boats left in September and October but acknowledges this is probably due to increased patrols carried out by the Senegalese navy.

In an effort to convince young men to stay, the women have enlisted the support of the local spiritual leader, Marabout Serigné Babacar Mbaké.

"His word and wisdom are widely respected," says Macode Wade, who lost two male relatives at sea in March. "During a recent event organized by the Association, many young men fell to their knees and took an oath not to take to the sea to reach Europe."

Another heavyweight ally in the women's efforts to stem the flow of

up to 50,000 FCFA (US\$100) are then made available to the most vulnerable women in the group to help them engage in income-generating activities. So far, more than a hundred small businesses have been sponsored by the Association.

"This is all part of our efforts to remind all those who say *Barca* or *Barsakh* (Barcelona or death) that we, the women, will have to carry the burden of their untimely deaths, day after day." **M**

For more information, please contact Association des femmes pour la lutte contre l'immigration clandestine, BP 118 Dakar, Thiaroye sur mer, Tel +221 854 33 87, Email hadjioumy2006@yahoo.fr

As well as Spain's Canary Islands, the Italian island of Lampedusa is an arrival point for thousands of irregular migrants arriving from Africa by boat. Here, IOM's **Simona Moscarelli** recounts the horrific experiences of those lucky enough to survive the journey.

"Don't take anything with you! We will provide you with water, food and cigarettes. In particular don't bring any documents. Don't let the Italians identify your nationality." These were the last instructions Lamia received just a few hours before leaving Libya for Italy by boat.

Her journey had started two months earlier in Morocco when she was introduced to a "special agent" organizing "easy trips" to Italy. The agent was in contact with another man, based in Libya, who normally follows up and

Libyans know the Africans are trying to make the hop to Italian shores and that if they are leaving the confines of their safe accommodation, it is because they need to go and pick up the money that will pay for the journey. The trip is essential to the migrants but exposes them to possible violence and robbery.

Lamia was lucky. She and her best friend lived in a house for migrants for a month. One night, the smuggler brought them to one of the isolated beaches at Zuwara where migrants are usually gathered before their departure for Italy. There, Lamia met several other men and women.

"Don't worry about the trip. The boat is big and the pilots are well experienced. In one day you will reach the small island of Lampedusa. That's Italy," she was told by the smugglers.

Thanks to a small but quick *Zodiac* boat, Lamia reached a bigger, 12-metre boat.

La

The Italian Irregular Migration Experience

Bella

Photos: Bedros Kendirjian/IOM

Vita?

▼ Simona Moscarelli talking to newly arrived migrants on Lampedusa.

Once there, she got rid of her identity documents and was put up in a house with other migrants from Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. "Agents", a more polite word for human smugglers, normally separate migrants according to their nationality with different houses for black Africans, Eritreans, Arabs, etc. in order to avoid problems and fights. Some people spend months or even years in these houses waiting for the right moment to go or the money which will allow them to make the final journey to Italy. The migrants are not allowed to leave the house and their day-to-day needs depend on the smugglers who provide them with food and drinks.

Going out, in fact, is dangerous, especially for black African migrants. The



▲▼ Often, IOM and others have to provide immediate medical assistance to those just arriving.

the capsizing. She feels guilty because she is overweight and as a result, it took longer and more people to rescue her.

"They could have saved some other people instead of me," she mourns.

When Fatima and Lamia arrived on Lampedusa, they were in shock. They were taken to what is called the first reception centre and immediately given water, food and clothing. They washed off the unbearable salt water that together with engine oil and urine, was burning their skin.

Mohammad, a 17-year-old Egyptian boy, kept shouting the name of his friend. He wouldn't react to any of the questions asked by the IOM cultural mediator, there mainly to provide legal information to the migrants, but often doing



But when she saw the *Zodiac* making several additional trips to collect more migrants from the beach, she became anxious. In the end, about 120 people – men, women and unaccompanied children – were crammed into the boat.

By dawn, just a few hours after departure, all the food and water had already gone. As the sun rose, the heat became unbearable. The engine was boiling and to cool it down, the smugglers poured sea water on it, scalding a woman who was too close.

By sunset, the smugglers realized they were still too far from the Italian coast and that they would need additional help if they were to make it. They called a Tunisian fishing boat which arrived with water, milk and some fuel for the boat.

Lamia and the other migrants were relieved, but soon after the sea became rough and fear once again spread among the group. The sight of an Italian naval boat on patrol reassured them, but their thoughts of reaching safety were premature.

A wrong manoeuvre by the pilots and a large wave capsized the boat. Everyone, including the migrants, fell into the sea. Almost none of them could swim.

"One cannot describe what happened during those moments. It was dark, the only light was from the Italian vessel. Everyone was shouting, struggling to reach for a part of the boat to hold on. In an effort to breathe, some of the migrants pushed others down," said one of the survivors.

Rescue patrols arrived immediately but the time in the water seemed endless for the migrants who afterwards reported they had waited "one, two, three hours" to be rescued.

Out of the 120 people on board, the Italian Navy rescued 70 survivors and recovered 10 bodies, mostly women. The bodies were transferred directly to Sicily. Lampedusa doesn't have enough space to bury them.

That was on 19 August 2006. Fatima was one of the three girls who survived

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Don't take anything with you! We will provide you with water, food and cigarettes. In particular don't bring any documents. Don't let the Italians identify your nationality.
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much more. The centre doctor spent the night trying to reassure and calm him. He wasn't the only one in distress. All the rescued migrants were in a similar state. Many were wailing uncontrollably and nothing any of us could say or do could relieve them of their pain.



▲ The journey to Lampedusa is often brutal and dangerous. Countless die en route.

As with all boat arrivals on Lampedusa, the IOM cultural mediator and I were at the harbour when the migrants arrived. Then, as at other times, we provided the migrants with immediate assistance such as first aid and information on what happens to them next. We also identified vulnerable people and referred them to doctors or the police for further help. This can include identifying possible victims of trafficking and violence as well as women who are in need of medical and psychosocial care. Our presence was constant. Even when the migrants couldn't sleep and walked back and forth calling the name of a brother or a friend who has died, we were nearby. And we were there in the days after when relatives of both the survivors and the missing arrived, asking for news of them.

There is no justification for such a human loss. Every year some 15,000-20,000 irregular migrants land on the island of Lampedusa, 115 miles south of the Sicilian coast and 180 and 75 miles north of Libya and Tunisia respectively. The migrants arriving on Lampedusa represent a small percentage of the irregular migrants entering or overstaying in Italy. But their story is by far the more danger-

ous and dramatic. The exact numbers of those physically landing are known, but not the numbers of those who drown at sea or who die much earlier in the deserts of North Africa.

When landing, the migrants are held in the first reception centre where Italian police take their fingerprints and try to identify them. The centre is quite small. It can host up to 190 people. Recently, a new area for women and children was opened. But it is still not enough.

During the summer when landings increase, the centre is easily overcrowded. During July this year, 83 landings brought 3,490 people. It's why the police transfer migrants to other reception centres in Italy such as Crotone, Foggia or Bari every two or three days. From there, the migrants may either request asylum and are then processed, or are repatriated or given an order to leave the country on their own. Forced returns from Lampedusa to Egypt, Morocco or Libya stopped in April, when IOM opened its office at the centre.

IOM works out of a small container within the reception centre's facilities,

together with UNHCR and the Italian Red Cross. The cooperation between the three organizations is bringing additional benefits. Important information is being gathered. Eighty per cent of the interviewed migrants came to Italy in search of work and to improve their lives, with a small percentage being asylum seekers. Libya was the departure point for 90 per cent of the migrants, and Tunisia for the remainder.

More light is also being shed on the smugglers. Libyan smugglers appear better organized and to have more connections with smuggling networks in other countries. Sometimes, they also focus on smuggling one specific nationality. Travelling from Tunisia in comparison appears more individual and haphazard.

It's all useful information. Knowing that migrants have a very poor knowledge of European immigration laws and virtually no knowledge of the often abusive conditions of the journey they are about to undertake allows IOM and others to devise more effective responses on the dangers of irregular migration. The more effective, the more lives that can be saved. **M**

Irregular migration can be a bone of contention between source and destination countries. Here, **Jennifer Zimmermann** of IOM Haiti, looks at the challenges facing Haiti and the Dominican Republic in addressing the issue.

The Politics of Taking Migrant Labour off the Black Market

Despite mounting recognition of unskilled labour mobility as a key driver of poverty reduction and "pro-poor" growth, the politics of taking migrant labour off the black market can be outright challenging. Haiti and the Dominican Republic present a useful example given their wage differentials, common border and certain level of interdependence.

boat people parting from economic hardship, environmental degradation and instability.

To foster positive outreach by the Haitian government, IOM facilitated a series of preparatory inter-ministerial workshops prior to the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which took place in September in New York. In formulating their government's position paper, the working group acknowledged the potential to leverage developmental benefits of labour exportation. This hope is captured in the proposals of an IOM/Haitian government labour migration report to jointly address labour migration dynamics with major host countries and mitigate adverse effects of the exodus in talent.

For Haitian workers, migration offers the prospect of increased earnings. Provided adequate protection of their human rights, female labour migrants may find their economic role within the household strengthened. Society could gain in gender equity and human capital where empowered migrant women are more able and willing to invest in the social development of their children.¹

While small economies ought to monitor the impact of remittances on exchange rate appreciation and external competitiveness, for the Haitian poor, many of whom rely on part of the US\$1 billion in estimated annual remittances (over 25% of Haiti's GDP), the issue of cross-border mobility could not be more pertinent.

Nonetheless, Haitian authorities have generally refrained from promoting foreign employment of unskilled labour, viewing migration through a prism of emigrating highly skilled nationals and

Highlighted within the report is the case of Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

Continued on page 18 >>>



Photos: Jennifer Zimmermann/IOM

By Jemini Pandya, IOM Geneva

The 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising this year marked a milestone both for refugee crises around the world and IOM.

The first post-WWII refugee crisis, the Hungarian Uprising began on 23 October 1956 with anti-Soviet student protests that led a few days later to Soviet tanks being deployed on the streets of Budapest. It was an action that resulted in an exodus of refugees into neighbouring Austria and Yugoslavia.

The crisis stirred a new sense of international solidarity on refugee resettlement in the Cold War era with about 200,000 people given the chance for a new life in another country. Among the first countries offering to take Hungarian refugees were Australia, Chile, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. It was also the first inter-organizational refugee operation in the post-war period.

For IOM, then known as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), the Hungarian Uprising was also a defining moment in the organization's history. Created to deal with the aftermath of human displacement and unemployment in post-war Europe, the exodus of such a large number of Hungarian refugees meant the organization had a real-time crisis on its hands.

When, together with UNHCR, ICEM was asked by Austria to help with the influx of refugees, more than 10,000 people from all walks of life with few or no belongings had already crossed the border. By the end of November 1956, about 8,000 refugees were arriving in Austria on a daily basis. Within a few months, Hungary lost a large part of its intelligentsia, its students and skilled workers.

ICEM was responsible for the coordination and arrangement of travel to other countries for temporary asylum or permanent resettlement, while UNHCR and the Red Cross took care of legal protection issues and local humanitarian assistance, respectively. This division of labour has provided a model for subsequent refugee emergencies.

In order to minimize family separation and to gain a detailed picture of the op-

Looking back on... THE Hungarian Uprising

eration ahead, ICEM also registered the refugees. In addition, it created hard fact profiles of the refugees, without names or photos, which were sent to resettlement governments and voluntary organizations. These showed the refugees for what they were: humans in need of human solutions. As a result, Sweden for example, selected people with tuberculosis, while Australia changed its selection criteria to take in many elderly people among the 12,000 refugees it resettled.

By the end of 1959, ICEM had assisted, in one way or another, nearly 163,000

refugees. It was not until 1978, during the Indochinese refugee crisis, that the organization moved more refugees in any one year than during the Hungarian crisis.

The expertise and experience gathered during this crisis came during a formative period for the organization and set the seal for what it did in the future. Flexibility and speed of response became trademarks and hundreds of thousands of people have since been given the chance to start a new life around the world. **M**



Humans in Need of Human Solutions

For many tens of thousands of refugees, resettlement in another country was fast and without much or any problem. But for those with disabilities or without special skills, applications for resettlement were usually rejected. In order to help them, ICEM needed to come up with a new approach for successful resettlement. One solution was the refugee/migrant catalogue – profiling both the negative and positive personal details of a refugee or a refugee family, telling

Skilled joiner, cabinetmaker, partially crippled...has fully overcome physical handicaps. Few humans could have survived the experiences that left **A**, aged 32, a partial cripple and which brought him to Austria in 1956 as a refugee. Triple surgery was required to repair a badly injured spine, four broken ribs and loss of most of his upper teeth. His recovery has been remarkable, sufficient to permit him to carry on his skilled occupation without difficulty. A man of proven courage, occupational skill and strength of mind, he is willing to accept a visa from any country that will offer him a resettlement opportunity.

Master joiner, carpenter, missing two fingers on left hand...efficient, skilful worker despite handicap. **B**, aged 48, lost two fingers in an industrial accident more than 20 years ago; most of his experience as a master woodworker was acquired after the accident, yet the loss of two fingers has disqualified him as medically unfit for all the resettlement programmes he has applied for. He is in excellent health, industrious and intelligent.

Polio left him lame but he walked 80 miles to asylum...then rejected for

their story. Despite long, hard waits in refugee camps, they were people who had not lost hope of starting anew in another country. Distributed to governments, voluntary agencies, UNHCR representatives etc, the catalogue and other tactics helped in changing the resettlement criteria of several governments who then accepted an “appreciable” number of these refugees. Here are some of the people who needed a human solution to their human problem.

resettlement as a “cripple”. **C**, aged 33, a skilled basketweaver, has been a refugee for three years now and has tried everything possible to qualify for migration. But regulations are regulations, and “cripples” are excluded by them. He has good basic education and is a man of exceptional character and determination.

Born blind, highly skilled electro-mechanic with 10 years factory experience...technical school graduate, specialist in appliance and telephone assembly, repair. **D** has been a refugee in Austria for two years. His work record is outstanding, proving beyond doubt

that once he has a job he is fully capable of taking care of himself. He possesses all of the compensatory faculties of the highly intelligent, intensively trained totally blind.

Fatherless boy, 9, seeks place for mother and self...mother and son called “uneconomic family”. **E**, aged 9, and his widowed mother, aged 34, have been refugees since 1958. The son goes to camp school and is reported to be a bright, well-behaved boy. The mother is a farm woman; she does housework when she can find a job. Mother and son are in perfect health.

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For IOM, then known as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), the Hungarian Uprising was also a defining moment in the organization's history. Created to deal with the aftermath of human displacement and unemployment in post-war Europe, the exodus of such a large number of Hungarian refugees meant the organization had a real-time crisis on its hands.



After 50 years in Colombia,

Our Country Remains in Our Hearts

Shortly after ICEM opened its office in Colombia in 1956, Harold Tittman, ICEM Director General, visited the country and signed an agreement with the government which had agreed to receive 10,000 Hungarian refugees who had fled to Austria. ICEM's role was to assist the refugees during their journey from Europe to Colombia, and upon arrival provide support to the government in the reception and resettlement process. ICEM organized Spanish classes at its reception centre as part of a cultural orientation programme; ICEM officials supervised the shelters, identified the needs of the refugees, assisted with their documentation, and followed up their integration process. ICEM also worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross in the family reunification process.

By Rocio Sanz, IOM Colombia

Their eyes sparkle when they talk about Hungary. Their house is filled with mementos from their country of origin – a cup that reads “I love Budapest” figurines dressed in Hungarian costumes, photos, paintings, bottles, and fans, amongst other things.

Gyula Schmidt, a young ex-military man from the overthrown Hungarian government, and his girlfriend Eva left their country in 1956 shortly after Russian tanks rolled into Budapest. The couple fled to Austria. Gyula was 34 years old and Eva only 20.

“My parents never agreed with the fact that there was a 14-year difference between us, so I decided not to tell them when we left the country. And I never

saw them again,” recalls Eva with a hint of sadness as she shows their photo album.

Life was not easy when they arrived in Austria. They were not able to find jobs. “It was then that a friend told us about Colombia,” continues Eva. “He had heard that this country was beautiful and that we would receive support for the voyage if we visited the embassy, so we did. It was as if someone was expecting us to open a door, to give us the opportunity we were looking for. And that is how we decided to come to Colombia. In less than a week, we boarded the ship *Americo Vespuccio* along with 700 other Hungarians on our way to this country.”

After 15 days on the high seas, on 17 May 1957, they finally reached the



shores of Cartagena de Indias. Eva's first impression of this new country was the intense heat. She was afraid that she would not be able to handle it. But they were told they would be sent to the capital. The city of Bogotá, at an altitude of some 2,600 metres, has a temperate climate year-round.

The arrival of the Hungarians became a major national expectation. Thousands of Colombians went to the airport to welcome them. It was all over the news. ICEM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided the newly arrived with shelter, food, clothing, education and assistance in the documentation process.

Soon after their arrival, Gyula and Eva decided to get married. Their wedding was covered by the Colombian media as the country was eagerly following the resettlement process of the new residents.

ICEM, with assistance from the Catholic Committee of Migration, helped Gyula and many other Hungarian men find employment. Gyula joined the Hormona Laboratories, a company managed by another Hungarian. “My first salary was only 450 pesos (less than one US

dollar), but it was enough for us to live,” recalls Gyula.

“We were so glad to be in this country that we did everything we could to learn and become more involved with the customs of this country,” adds Eva. “We used to go to the cinema to learn more Spanish. I remember the ticket was 30 cents, but it was worth every cent because we always learned a new word or two.”

But to this day, they still speak Hungarian at home. They say it's a way to remember their roots, for them and their children. For Gyula, it is sometimes difficult to manage in Spanish, so Eva has to translate for him.

In 1968, the Schmidts received a job offer from a telecom company to manage a country house in Fusagasuga, a small village near Bogotá. They lived there until 1982, when they retired. Today, they live in Bogotá with their two children and two grandsons, a new generation of Hungarian-Colombians totally integrated in their country, but who keep alive their parents' language and their surname as a reminder of their origins.



“There are many differences between Budapest and Bogotá, but we have made good friends and have had a good life here. Fifty years have passed since we left Hungary, and although we are quite settled here and we never think of going back, our country will always remain in our hearts,” adds Eva as she flashes a complicit smile at Gyula. **M**

A Gesture of Solidarity with the Hungarian Refugees

Erwin Agular Prohaszka, another Hungarian who arrived in Colombia on the same ship along with his pregnant wife and two daughters, shares some of the memories with the Schmidts.

“The trip to Colombia was full of uncertainty,” says Erwin. “I remember that only a week before we arrived in the country, we heard that General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla was forced to retire from the government. I was scared for my family as we had just fled from political instability in our country and we did not know what the situation would be like in Colombia.”

“I had sought help in other embassies before going to the Colombian Embassy, but only the Colombians received us. I

have to say that I did not feel relieved when we first arrived in this country. However, later I was impressed with the solidarity that this country showed us,” continues Erwin. “ICEM also was very supportive. They paid every expense for my family during the trip and upon our arrival. They even helped us with our papers and to find jobs. That is why I want to express my gratitude to both the Colombian government and ICEM, because they helped us to start a new life.”

At the age of 77, Erwin continues working as a dentist. He is proud of having worked with many well-known Colombians. He never misses an opportunity to tell his story to everyone who goes to his office because he says, “I am happy that destiny brought my family and me to this country.”

STORIES

>>> Continued from page 11

Numbering from 500,000 to 700,000,² these migrants remit between an estimated US\$134 million to US\$218 million per year,³ though mainly through unofficial channels given their largely irregular status and limited access to affordable transfer and financial intermediary services.

The Council of Hemispheric Affairs (COHA)⁴ claims Haitian migrant labour also impacts on the diversification and vitality of the Dominican economy which depends on considerable labour-intensive production that cannot be outsourced. Originally a mainstay of the sugarcane industry, migrant workers help to sustain agricultural, construction, service and informal sectors, in which strenuous working conditions and meager remuneration may be unappealing to nationals.

In light of such push and pull pressures, the paucity of legal migration means has left reconciliation of labour supply and demand to the black market. Since the dissolution of a discredited government-managed system of contracting migrant workers in 1986, the volume of irregular migratory flows within Hispaniola has expanded, fuelled by a vibrant smuggling network, weak border management capacity, and at times, corruption of border guards.

The costs of unregulated migration are evident. Migrants remain vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, particularly in the *bateyes*,⁵ while societies are exposed to transnational organized crime and public health risks where interventions overlook the mobile population.⁶ Of further concern, the two countries risk increasingly strained relations over the undocumented and illicit migrant presence.

Notwithstanding the mutual gains to be had from a bilateral temporary migrant worker scheme, the political feasibility

of this economic and security imperative continues to elude policymakers. Haitian migrants may be viewed by some as a burden on social services and a source of downward pressure on wages and job security. Such perceptions complicate the politics of managing the interests of the business class and labour migrants, while addressing what may be legitimate concerns of the national workforce.

The weak capacity of successive Haitian administrations to secure their border, combat human trafficking and smuggling, and provide their citizens



is important as legal options for labour mobility will always be limited, improved development opportunities will not obviate the need to better manage labour mobility. In a least-developed country like Haiti, incremental improvements in education and earnings potential may make migration feasible for some of the poor.

Given the inherent limitations to any sole policy focus on domestic controls and/or source area development, the need to manage migration for short-term wage labour is clear.

Various bilateral systems for contracting migrant labour exist, involving admission quotas per sector or region, employer/contractor obligations and/or guest worker permits for a prescribed duration of stay. When crafting accords and regulations, it has proven helpful for sending and receiving states to consult each other, the private sector and trade unions for interstate coherence in policy, labour market analysis and data on labour shortages. Here, binational and regional consultative processes can offer a forum in which to explore promising practices.

Any well-regulated guest worker programme would need to be jointly enforced and complemented with bolstered efforts to stem irregular migration and ensure that repatriations occur under conditions aligned with state obligations in national, bilateral and international instruments. In this context, IOM is assisting Haiti and the Dominican Republic through counter-trafficking projects and capacity building in migration management initiatives.

Once labour mobility has gained credibility as a source of development rather than interstate tension, the post-admission issues of protecting migrant rights, particularly those of women in the informal sector, and maximizing the developmental impact of remittances may prove more policy-friendly.

Should the two governments persuade public opinion of the rationale for improved bilateral management, temporary migrant labour may well emerge from the black market to join better aid, fairer trade and debt relief in contributing to a more stable and prosperous region. **M**

Bleak Future for Iraq's Displaced

By Dana Graber, IOM Iraq

Masad Ammar,* his wife and children recently fled their home in Abu Ghraib, Baghdad, after they received a threatening letter warning them that if they did not leave within three days, they would be killed. They grabbed what few belongings they could and fled. They now live

*All names have been changed for security purposes.

About one thousand people are now being displaced by the violence in Iraq on a daily basis. With no sign of an end to the conflict in the near future, the outlook of those displaced looks extremely bleak. As one of the few organizations still able to work on the ground in Iraq, IOM is working hard to shed light on the plight of the displaced and to provide some relief to their daily struggles.

with other displaced families in a former military facility. They have no electricity, water or sewer system, and insurgents have moved into their former home.

"We do not think the security will improve and we cannot go home. We just want to live in peace and try to blend with the other families living here," says Masad, as he and his family gather in the tiny room they are occupying in the abandoned building. They need even the most basic items such as mattresses, cooking utensils and clothes.

Iraq has a long-standing history of displacement with almost 1.5 million people displaced throughout the country over the past four decades. Increasing violence has now resulted in one of the worst displacement crises in its history.

On 22 February 2006, the bombing of the Al-Askariya shrine in Samarra in the Iraqi governorate of Salah al Din plunged the country deeper into volatility. Religious and community tensions had already been brewing since the demise of Saddam Hussein. The bombing seemed to be the spark that ignited an ever-increasing spiral of violence and displacement throughout the country.

"When Saddam's regime collapsed, we were rejoicing and waited for democracy to change our lives, but our dreams have not come true. Instead, we face unending violence. I am making plans to leave the country," revealed Omer Mahmood, a medical doctor who is currently living in Kirkuk. Some of Omer's colleagues have been killed or kidnapped, and he has witnessed the displacement of his family and friends.

By end of November, IOM Iraq estimates that more than 250,000 people have been displaced in central and southern Iraq since 22 February, with about 1,000 people being displaced on a daily basis over the past few months.

◀ Life has to continue somehow for Iraq's many displaced. (Photo: IOM)



² Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), 1999.

³ Orozco, Manuel, *Understanding the Remittance Economy in Haiti*, World Bank 2006.

⁴ COHA, *Neighborhood Quarrels: The Dominican Republic and the Perennial Haitian Immigrant Issue*, Memorandum to the Press, Washington DC, 30 Jun 2005.

⁵ Originally associated with the sugarcane industry, *bateyes* are settlements in which migrant workers face poor living and working conditions.

⁶ IOM, *HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations in the Caribbean: A Baseline Assessment*, June 2004.

Dominicans have urged greater international aid for Haiti to curtail economically-induced migration. While generating livelihood means in source areas

⁷ Ferguson, James, *Migration in the Caribbean: Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Beyond*, Minority Rights Group International, London, July 2003.

⁸ Report of the Secretary General on the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, 28 July 2006.

“The violence is segregating Iraq,” said Haider Anwar, who is managing IOM Iraq’s Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) monitoring and assessment project. “Due to forced displacement, even neighbourhoods in Baghdad City are either one religious sect or another, and it is too dangerous to live there unless you are part of a certain sect.”

Ali Jaber fled with his family of eight from the violence in his home town in Diyala to the governorate of Wassit, where they moved into a one-room mud home outside its capital, Kut. In Diyala, Ali supported his family as a successful taxi driver, but since their displacement, Ali hasn’t been able to find work. He and his family struggle to pay for food and rent. “It is humiliating to live like this,” says Ali.

Hayder J Ali, a medical doctor who heads a local Iraqi NGO, says that displacement is taking a great toll on the physical and psychological well-being of both children and adults. “Displacement in Iraq is often accompanied by a loss of employment and access to basic services, increasing the feelings of anger, hopelessness and inadequacy. The living conditions of many displaced persons are deplorable, and communicable diseases and acute or chronic mental illness are common.”

The alarming increase in displacement brought to light the need for a thorough monitoring and needs assessments of recently displaced populations. IOM, as the lead organization for IDP monitoring and emergency assistance in Iraq, began to help track that displacement and to identify the IDPs’ most

basic needs, their intentions, and why they were displaced. It was and is, a huge, dangerous and extremely difficult undertaking.

Experienced interviewers travel throughout Iraq’s central and southern governorates to identify and interview IDPs. In some regions, the security situation, checkpoints or road closures prevent or hinder their work at times. Often the interviewers cannot reveal they are working for an international humanitarian organization. Any such association makes them a target for insurgents and criminals.

The interviewers sit with the families or local community leaders to obtain the information needed and listen to the IDPs’ needs and concerns on numerous issues. But the research goes deeper. Tribal and community leaders, local NGOs, the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration and local government bodies are also visited in order to gather additional information.

That information gives IOM and others not only an idea of the scale of displacement in each of the 15 central and southern governorates the Organization is monitoring, but is also critical in helping it to prioritize emergency operations and in designing long-term durable solutions to the displacement crisis. What help is needed for those who never plan to return to their former homes?

This is an issue for those who have fled to the south of the country such as Basrah. Here, where the situation is a bit more stable, communities are more homogenous and where IDPs have



tribal or familial links, the displaced want to stay and integrate with the local community. But for that, permanent housing and employment are key.

Finding durable solutions in Baghdad, for example, which is more violent, unstable and less homogenous, is difficult in a different way. Many IDPs here say they plan to return to their original homes. But the longer they are displaced, the harder it becomes for them to go back, especially as Iraq’s religious and ethnic communities become increasingly separated.

More pressing are the immediate needs of the displaced. And with winter fast looming, some of the most basic requirements will become critical to their survival.

Many IDPs rank shelter and access to work as their priority needs. In many areas, an increase in displacement has resulted in increased competition for housing and a subsequent hike in rent, land prices and shelter materials. The irony is that if the IDPs could find a job – a difficult task already in a country

where social and economic disintegration combined with high nationwide employment has had a catastrophic effect on work opportunities for all – their shelter and food needs would, to a certain extent, be met.

For Mohammed Abbas, a new job and increased security for his family were his hope. He, his wife, two sons and daughter were displaced from Baghdad to Kerbala. In Baghdad, he owned a shop and repaired electronics. However, with no job in Kerbala, Mohammed says that his family will soon have to return to the Iraqi capital as they don’t have the money to pay the rent for the coming months. But returning to their home Abu Ghraib, a notoriously dangerous area, is unthinkable. It’s likely they will be forced to move yet again and stay with relatives who live in a somewhat “safer” area in Baghdad.

Mohammed, like many other parents, is worrying about what displacement is doing to his children. They, however, are some of the luckier ones. They have their parents. IOM’s monitoring has found that children, single women, the

elderly and the sick are the most vulnerable among the displaced.

Increasing numbers of widows as the death toll in Iraq rises means that they and their children are being left to fend for themselves. With very few work opportunities for women in Iraq, widows are forced to ask their children to beg or work in order to survive.

Poverty, lack of food, shelter, and proper health care also means children are especially affected by malnutrition and not surprisingly, preventable diseases and infections have increased. Growing up in an environment where violence is the norm is also causing long-term psychological trauma and in a conflict-ridden country, psychosocial support is not readily available.

“What is particularly worrying is that traditional coping mechanisms in Iraq are not only being stretched to the limit but are starting to break down,” says Rafiq Tschannen, IOM’s Chief of Mission. “For a long time now, an unbearable weight has been put on families hosting the displaced. They cannot carry on like this for much longer.”

IOM is trying to lessen that suffering where it can. It is providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable IDP families including food, water, and non-food items such as blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, stoves and hygiene kits. More than 30,000 families have been helped in this way since February, among them the families of both Ali and Mohammed.

With very few organizations being able to work in Iraq, such assistance is critical. But the Organization doesn’t have funds to continue doing this beyond another few months.

“We can’t stress enough what a difference it makes for people to get this help at such a moment of crisis. Without it, their future is unthinkable,” says Martin Ocaga, IOM Iraq’s IDP Programme Manager.

Despite all the pain, hardship and suffering, the miracle is that there is still a glimmer of hope and belief in a better future among some Iraqis.

“I feel like there is the potential for democracy and peace in Iraq,” says Omer. The first sign of that happening is when displacement stops. **M**



Life has to continue somehow for Iraq’s many displaced. (Photos: IOM)

RISING FROM THE RUBBLE

By Paul Dillon, IOM Indonesia

Despite the month-long evacuation of villages in the shadow of Mt. Merapi, by May 2006, the volcano's towering ash cloud and ground-shaking explosions had become a feature of life in Indonesia's Central Java and neighboring Yogyakarta provinces.

Most area residents simply wrote off the 6.3 magnitude earthquake that struck shortly before 6 am on 27 May as further convulsions by the spirits living within the mountain. Until the walls of their homes caved in.

"She was too scared to run so she stood in the doorway as the house collapsed around her," said a villager, who watched his sister die buried under the rubble of her home.

Centred 20 km southeast of Yogyakarta, the quake struck as people bathed, performed their morning chores or idled over a cup of tea before heading for work in the fields or the small towns set amid picturesque rice paddies and corn fields.

Within minutes, tens of thousands of homes lay in ruins, leaving as many as

1.5 million without shelter – far more than the number affected by the December 2004 Asian tsunami. An estimated 6,000 people perished and a further 50,000 were injured, many of them seriously.

For the second time in less than 18 months, the Indonesian government and its partners, including IOM, found themselves at the centre of a massive humanitarian relief effort.

Within a day of the tragedy, IOM launched a series of transport, logistic and medical initiatives that drew heavily on experiences gained during the tsunami response.

For IOM tsunami veterans like Government Liaison Officer Ronnie Bala, there was a grim familiarity to the process.

"Just like after the tsunami, things were pretty crazy," he says. "So much information was coming in, it was a challenge to set priorities. I drove through the night to try and assess the immediate needs and then started looking for trucks. The government contacted us very quickly because of our track record opening the land bridge in Aceh."

In the wake of the tsunami, IOM provided free transport services to govern-

ment agencies, and domestic and international tsunami responders. Its truck fleet delivered close to 90,000 metric tons of supplies to Indonesia's northern-most province.

"The combination of many years of inter-governmental cooperation and our successes responding to the tsunami resulted in a broad awareness of IOM within key Indonesian government agencies. They asked us for help and we responded," says IOM Indonesia Executive Officer Paul Norton.

Seven months after the Yogyakarta earthquake, 170 leased IOM trucks and 60 light vehicles are still operating at capacity, transporting food and non-food items from more than 140 different agencies.

As the inter-agency "cluster" focal point for the procurement of emergency shelter materials on behalf of 65 different organizations in Yogyakarta and Central Java, IOM coordinated the purchase and distribution of more than a quarter of a million tarpaulins, blankets and sleeping mats through local non-governmental organizations and village chiefs.

By the six-month anniversary of the quake, the organization had delivered

53,000 metric tons of food and non-food items to the region, including 530,000 lengths of bamboo to be used in government-sponsored home construction projects.

IOM migration health staff like Filipino nurse, Rose Baguios, were among the first to arrive in Banda Aceh in January 2005 where she worked alongside medical teams from around the globe. Days after the Yogya quake, she relocated from Meulaboh on Aceh's west coast to the new disaster area.

"Although the local health infrastructure in Yogya and Central Java was damaged, the main city hospitals were open and struggling to deal with all the patients," she said. "So we initiated a medical transportation assistance programme to decongest the hospitals."

The health unit also replicated a successful post-tsunami community mental health training initiative and an eight-week-long health-related radio talk show.

IOM also drew on its tsunami experience in the construction sector and support services provided to devastated communities.

By November 2006, IOM, through its private sector contractors, had built roughly 2,300 earthquake-resistant modular cement homes in Aceh based on a made-in-Indonesia design.

It also looked to Indonesia for a durable bamboo design that could be rapidly deployed in Yogya after the earthquake. Working with engineers and architects at local universities, IOM developed a simple structure that could be rapidly built to provide shelter from the monsoon rains that typically begin in November.

Rather than relying on contractors, a mechanized production facility under IOM's direct supervision opened in Yogyakarta in August. All the components for the houses are pre-cut and bound at the site before being transported to the construction sites.

By mid-November, more than 7,000 complete units had been prefabricated

◀ Some of the 2,300 earthquake-resistant cement homes built by IOM in Aceh. (Photo: Edy Purnomo/IOM)

Gotong Royong

IOM's construction services unit tapped into the millennia-old traditional village structure known as *gotong royong*, which loosely translates as "community self-reliance", to mobilize villagers in Central Java and Yogyakarta.

Similar to the rural American concept of community "barn raisings", the *gotong royong* remains a powerful centralizing force in village life, particularly in rural Java.

Though new economic pressures and a cash-economy have stripped it of some of its historical power, *gotong royong* enjoys sufficient cultural support for recent Indonesian national cabinets to be named after it.

"The spirit of *gotong royong* remains important to us," says Yogyakarta native Yunastuti Daud, IOM's senior project assistant for field construction. "For many communities it is all they have left, so people are ready to participate."

While it can be enacted for a variety of tasks like organizing labour for seasonal harvests, it most often applies to home-building.

Traditionally, men in the village offered up five days of labour to the individual making the request. In adapting *gotong royong* to the current context IOM broke beneficiary groups into blocks of six households, which were encouraged to work cooperatively to erect their new homes.

As many men are forced to travel to the main commercial centres to work, IOM supplements the labour force by providing two additional labourers to each working group, and a trained supervisor from a local university.

and 4,300 complete houses built in the worst-affected areas. IOM expects to have 12,000 homes completed by year end.

The responsibility for ensuring housing aid is delivered to the right people in Aceh and Yogyakarta falls to the community liaison units (CLU) in both locations.

"There are three main objectives in our beneficiary identification systems here: to ensure housing assistance reaches those truly in need, to filter out fraudulent claims, and to ensure IOM's housing assistance is in line with government policy," says Aceh CLU manager, Nicky Rounce.

IOM field staff examine and cross-reference individual legal documents like the personal identification cards (*KTP*) all Indonesian citizens are required to carry, marriage certificates and land-ownership documents with beneficiary lists compiled and submitted by community representatives, local government or other stakeholders.

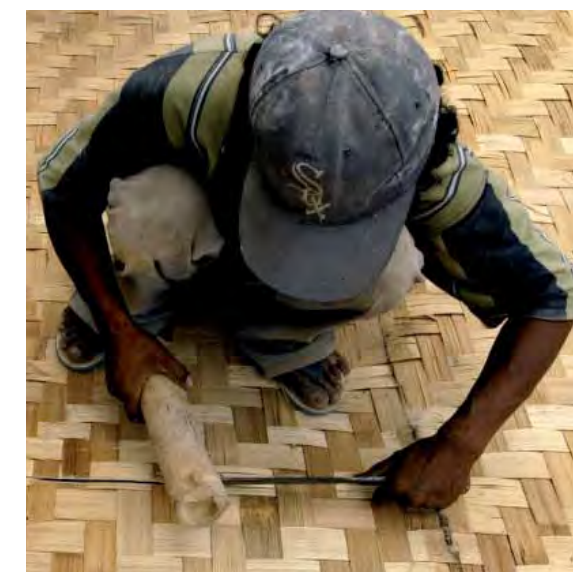
The data is then supplemented with several face-to-face interviews with potential beneficiaries, their neighbours and community leaders, and visits to the sites where their homes once stood.

Unlike the tsunami, which effectively wiped out most coastal communities in Aceh, the scope and scale of earth-

quake damage varies widely throughout the two provinces in Java.

As a result, in addition to taking into account the response of local government and aid agencies to the housing emergency, IOM's eligibility requirements in Java also emphasize levels and intensity of damage in prioritizing beneficiaries.

A community's willingness to work cooperatively in keeping with the traditional Javanese concept of *gotong royong* is also an important factor in Java, which culturally differs from Aceh. **M**



▲ A local labourer prepares woven wall materials for IOM transitional shelters in Trimulya, Jetis sub-district, Bantul Regency, Yogyakarta. (Photo: Ng Swan Ti/IOM)



Engaging Business to Fight the Business of Human Trafficking

IOM is putting much emphasis this year on the need to create partnerships with business and civil society in addressing migration issues, a message at the core of its International Dialogue on Migration at its Council session in Geneva at the end of November. In South Africa, such a valuable partnership has already been created by IOM in its fight to end human trafficking in the country.

By Rebecca Wynn, IOM Pretoria

The support of the private sector in the fight against human trafficking is crucial," says Karen Blackman, Information Coordinator for the IOM's Southern African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Programme (SACTAP). "The

private sector can help extend the reach of counter-trafficking campaigns.

Themed *Blow the Whistle*, the week aimed to raise awareness of the growing problem of human trafficking in South Africa and to encourage members of the public to report suspected cases

Partnering with Diasporafric enabled IOM to make a greater impact with its awareness-raising efforts by tapping into the company's contacts in the entertainment industry.

One of the main highlights of the week was a football match between premier



The mining sector in South Africa is being targeted by an awareness-raising play. Their support is instrumental in combating trafficking in mining areas.



The play depicts the harsh realities of trafficking. SACTAP hopes it will encourage whistle-blowers.



more voices we have speaking out against trafficking, the greater awareness of the problem there will be and the better we will be able to assist victims."

In November, South Africa saw its first ever nationwide Human Trafficking Awareness Week. Conceived by South African marketing company Diasporafric, and supported by IOM and South African media giants MetroFM, SABC and the Daily Sun, the week – which ran from 6-11 November – is a key example of how partnering with the pri-

through the IOM national toll-free helpline number: 0800 555 999.

Continued research on human trafficking in South Africa since 2002 has led IOM to conclude that trafficking is flourishing with young women in particular being trafficked to the country from other African countries, South-east Asia, and Eastern Europe for sexual exploitation. There is also evidence that South African women and children are being trafficked abroad and forced into domestic servitude or prostitution.

league teams Kaizer Chiefs and Bloemfontein Celtic screened live on national broadcaster, SuperSport Channel. Orange anti-trafficking bracelets and t-shirts emblazoned with IOM's helpline number were distributed to the public at the event, and worn by the sport stars.

Interviews with IOM staff and other human trafficking experts were also on SABC television, while Metro FM featured five daily radio slots with facts on human trafficking as well IOM's helpline number.

"The most rewarding aspect of this experience," says Blackman, "has been the enthusiasm of the private sector to get involved."

International advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi has also offered pro bono services to create a media strategy promoting an IOM anti-trafficking television spot.

"We were touched by the work being done by IOM and the difference they make to women who are trapped in appalling conditions," explains Grant Meldrum, Saatchi & Saatchi's Managing Director for South Africa.

The spot, set to appear on South African television screens in early 2007, will present an African setting, and focus on the recruitment stage in the trafficking process revealing the deceptive ploys used by traffickers to lure unsuspecting individuals.

IOM's helpline number where the public can call to report suspected cases of trafficking or receive further information will also be displayed. Saatchi & Saatchi hopes the advert will strike a chord among potential whistle blowers, particularly those who pay for sex.

"We want to make them think twice about the person they are paying to have sex with," says Meldrum. "Most people assume they are paying a willing partner when in reality she may be being held against her will."

IOM's SACTAP is also seeking to engage South Africa's mining sector in its awareness-raising efforts. The gold mines of South Africa's West Rand and the North-West province are key destination points for women trafficked from Mozambique. The women are typically sold into brothels in the area or as "wives" to mineworkers.

"You stay with him by force and he does not buy you anything, he does not care for you," one trafficked person told IOM. "When you left home they said you were going to work but when you arrive there, you get no job. You are sold to a man... you find that you are suffering... you want to get back to Mozambique but you have no money to do so."

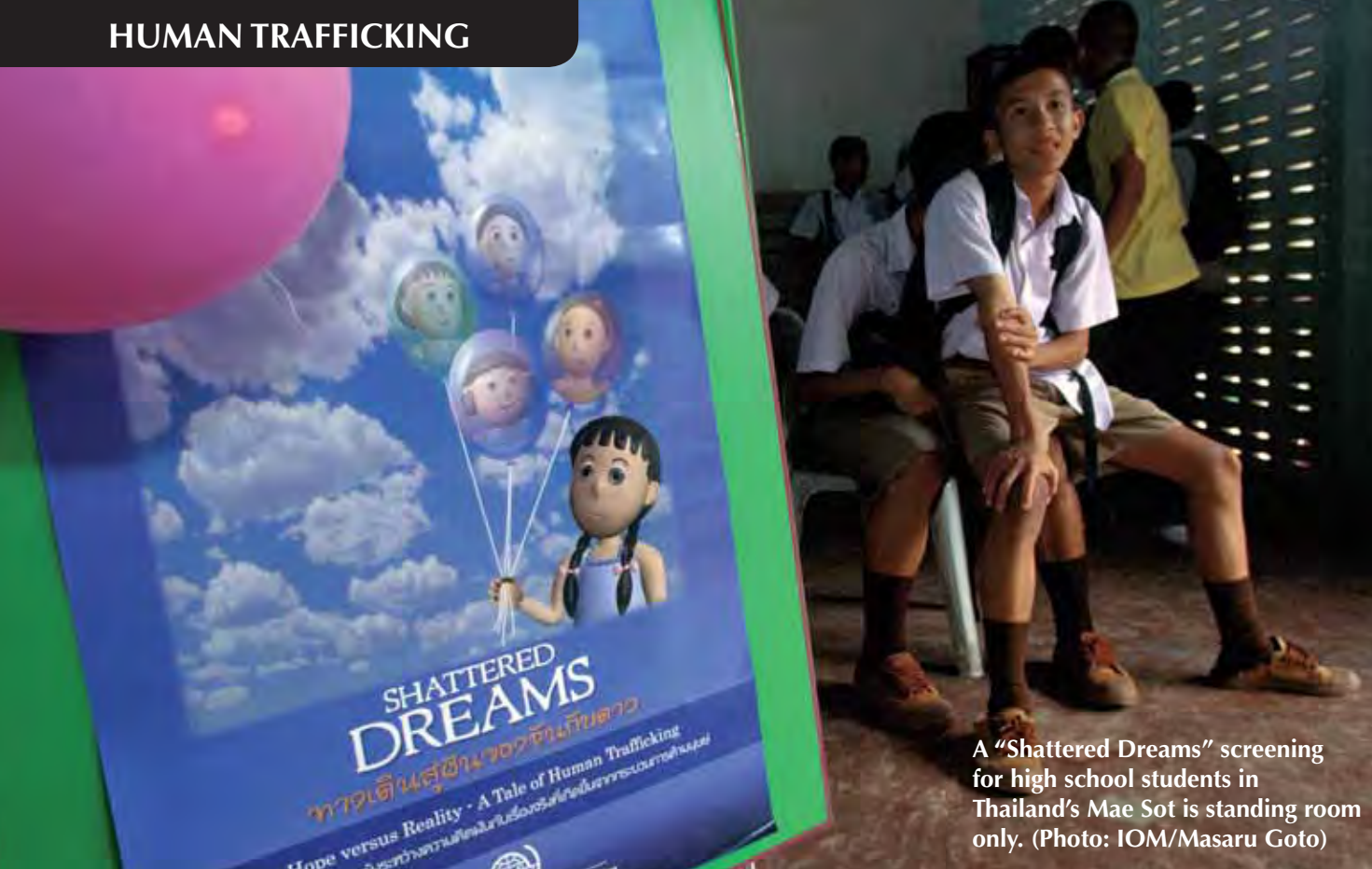
Awareness of human trafficking among managers and supervisors at the mines is low while there is a general assumption that the women are consenting partners to what goes on – factors that contribute to the continuation of the crime. But the companies can play a key role in changing attitudes and, therefore, realities.

"They could educate their workers about the reality of trafficking and denounce trafficking in their code of conduct for workers, stating that engaging in the practice is grounds for dismissal," adds Blackman.

The first salvo in IOM's efforts to engage the mining companies in counter-trafficking activities was a placed article in *Mining Mirror*, a magazine distributed to mining management throughout South Africa. The article outlines the problem of trafficking and calls on mining companies to address the problem of human trafficking by implementing in-house awareness-raising campaigns.

A Portuguese-language theatre road show touring South Africa's mining areas was the next step. A unique and dynamic show incorporating music, drama and dance; it was produced in conjunction with Community Media for Development (CMFD), a private company working to strengthen the use of media and drama for development. The play tells the story of two trafficked sisters, one who is helped to escape from a mining hostel by a mine worker, the other dying in a brothel at the hands of her traffickers. It is hoped that the piece will encourage people to blow the whistle on trafficking in their communities, as well as raise awareness of the issue in all sections of the mining industry.

"We want to follow up the play with one-to-one meetings with mining companies," explains Blackman. "We hope to encourage them to distribute SACTAP information materials and help them formulate their own campaigns. Mining companies have been instrumental in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and IOM believes they can play a similar role in putting an end to a crime that has no place on this planet 200 years after the abolition of slavery." **M**



A "Shattered Dreams" screening for high school students in Thailand's Mae Sot is standing room only. (Photo: IOM/Masaru Goto)

Mekong Movie Results in Fewer Shattered Dreams

By Amy Jersild, IOM Bangkok

Migrating for work is a feature of life in all six countries bordering the Mekong river – Thailand, Myanmar, the Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam and southern China. Lack of job opportunities, a desire to earn more money and an interest in seeing the world are all strong motivators.

Economic disparities between the countries, as well as between urban and rural areas, also provide an impetus to migrate, as does the demand for unskilled labour in the more developed economies like Thailand.

Visit a village in southern Laos after the harvest, for example, and you will typically only find the very old and the very young. All the others, particularly young people between the ages of 15 and 25, have left to find work in Thailand.

In many areas in the Mekong region, migrating is a rite of passage for young

people, as they follow in the footsteps of older brothers and sisters and their peers. Young people also often face pressure from parents to provide financial support for the family.

The combination of these pressures, few opportunities to migrate legally for work, and a lack of knowledge about the risks run by irregular migrants, can often result in exploitation, and sometimes in human trafficking.

Examples include Cambodian children trafficked to work as beggars in Thailand, Vietnamese women trafficked into prostitution in Cambodia, Lao girls forced into domestic servitude in Thailand, and Burmese men forced to work on Thai fishing boats without pay.

While trafficking in some parts of the world may begin with abduction from a village, a family's sale of a child, or a victim recruited by a trafficker through deception, in the Mekong region, most victims leave their villages voluntarily

in search of a better life. It is only en route or at their destination that they discover that they have no control over the situation and face often brutal exploitation.

For the IOM counter-trafficking team in Bangkok, the solution to the problem lay in better educating young people in the region about safe migration. In 2004 the team created a full-length animated video called "Shattered Dreams."

Originally designed as a training tool for Thai social workers working with trafficking victims from neighboring countries, the video has now been used to promote a message of safe migration to over a million young people across the Mekong region.

Translated into nine languages – Thai, Khmer, Burmese, Shan, Lao, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Kmhmu – the video has been shown in Thailand, the Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam in schools and communities

as a means of promoting safe migration and highlighting the risks of irregular options.

Jan and her sister Dao feature in the "Shattered Dreams" story as two young women with dreams of working in the big city. The story relates Jan's experience after she returns home to the village.

Her dream was to earn income to support her family, to see new things, to meet new people, to go to shopping malls, and to eat Western food. Inevitably, things turn out rather differently.

Jan and the other characters in the story portray various aspects of labour migration – some, but not all, involving exploitation. The benefits of earning income to support one's family are put in context, and exploitation, including human trafficking, is addressed, together with related issues such as health, gender, and stigmatization.

IOM Bangkok's strategy to reach over a million viewers in the past two years has involved forming partnerships with governmental and non-governmental agencies across the region.

Outreach activities have included Training of Trainers workshops; publication of a supporting Activities Manual and Facilitators Guide; and distribution of



▲ Cambodian children trafficked to beg in Thailand return home with IOM across the Thai-Cambodian border. (Photo: IOM/William Barriga)

promotional items including T-shirts, pens, notebooks and posters illustrating the Shattered Dreams message.

IOM missions in the Mekong region have worked with the Bangkok team to deliver the Shattered Dreams message region-wide.

In Cambodia and Thailand the video was shown in schools. In Viet Nam, in partnership with the Vietnam Women's Union, it was shown to vulnerable communities along the Cambodia-Viet Nam border. In the Lao PDR, in partnership with the government, activities focused on vulnerable commu-

nities in two southern provinces with high rates of migration.

Other partnerships also disseminated the Shattered Dreams messages to broader audiences. A collaborative relationship was developed with the Thai Youth News (TYN), a Thai NGO whose aim is to promote and develop journalism skills among young people.

"Shattered Dreams" was shown at TYN workshops to help student journalists to understand trafficking issues. Participants then wrote up trafficking-related news and features, subsequently broadcast on the NGO's regular broadcast spot on Thai TV.

Another partnership in the Lao PDR saw UNICEF using "Shattered Dreams" in participatory workshops for young people, as part of its work in developing a National Plan of Action on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children with the Lao government.

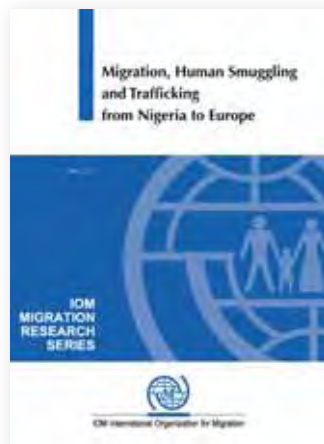
The Shattered Dreams project, which ends in December, has raised the awareness of young people in the Mekong region about the consequences of unsafe migration. It has also increased their capacity to make informed decisions relating to their own migration and to act on them.

Greater public awareness of the issues and the ongoing efforts of IOM's partners in the Shattered Dreams project – governments, intergovernmental agencies and NGOs – will ensure that the messages found in the video will remain in the public eye, particularly among young people, the group most likely to migrate. **M**



▲ Thai schoolchildren perform on traditional instruments at an IOM-sponsored event in Tak province to raise awareness of human trafficking. (Photo: IOM/Masaru Goto)

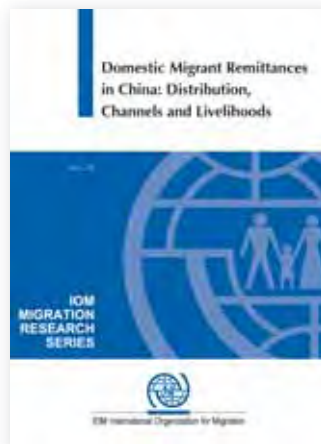
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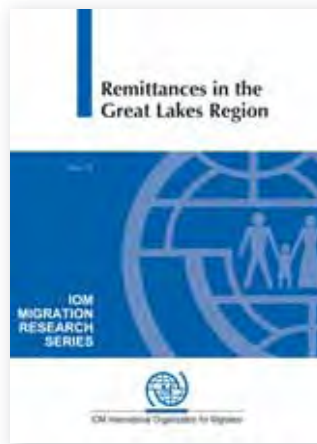
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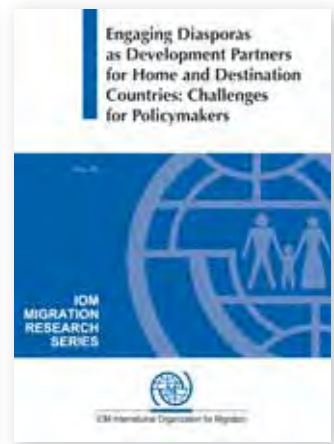
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