

Global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for
the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010

**Report on IOM contribution to the implementation of the Programme
of Action**

Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels

- **Providing adequate and appropriate response, including financial and technical assistance, to requests of LDCs for human and institutional capacity building for governance functions**

General activities

Through its Technical Cooperation on Migration (TCM), IOM activities help governments equip themselves with the necessary policy, legislation, administrative structures, operational systems and human resource base needed to tackle diverse migration problems.

At the request of a number of Member States, IOM has undertaken the development of Essentials for Migration Management for Policy Makers and Practitioners. Essentials for Migration Management is a learning tool, written in a non-technical manner, which provides an overview of the key elements of international migration management. It is intended to provide an accurate, interactive framework of reference and instruction on contemporary migration dynamics, policies and trends. It aims to expand the knowledge and facilitate the work of government policy makers, practitioners, academics and organizations.

Afghanistan

IOM's TCM office in Kabul has recently put together an Inter-Ministerial Committee, the Afghan Migration Management Working Group, comprised of Deputy Ministers from six different ministries. The purpose of the AMMWG is to create an environment where high-ranking Afghan Government officials from various ministries can increase their knowledge of migration issues and discuss common issues and concerns regarding migration management and to assist Afghan Government authorities in maximizing the benefits of migration while minimizing the negative aspects. A secondary goal is to prepare Afghan Government officials in advance of regional and international conferences and workshops on migration issues so that they can be informed and knowledgeable representatives of Afghanistan. IOM will provide a structured learning environment designed to respond to the needs and concerns of the government officials. The main tool will be IOM's Essentials in Migration Management (EMM).

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, IOM has been providing institutional capacity building programmes at all levels with the view to empowering and building human and institutional competence of government bodies through trainings and sensitization programmes. IOM Addis is providing technical support to develop and strengthen the capacity of the Regional Affairs Section of the Ministry of Federal Affairs in conducting research, data processing, and analysis concerning federalism, peace-building, and conflict management and resolution, within the country. IOM is also providing technical expertise to clarify the nature, scope and form of conflict in the geographic sectors of Ethiopia where it recurs frequently with adverse effects locally, nationally and regionally. It also aims at harnessing this knowledge to enhance the capacity of state and civil society actors to manage conflict. IOM in collaboration with UNDP is currently undertaking capacity building efforts which aim to build up the capacity of local and regional actors in the areas of peace building and creating improved linkages between traditional leadership and the government administrative leadership. IOM works closely with the regional government and the IDP communities to identify critical areas of need and undertake trainings, which will equip the communities with skills in conflict identification and non-violent conflict resolution.

Bangladesh

IOM had implemented a project to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment created in 2001. The project had included research on the existing labour migration situations as well as on diaspora communities. It resulted in the formulation of two plans of action for labour migration management and migration management for Bangladesh. These guidelines contributed to the formulation of the draft Overseas Employment Policy. IOM has been supporting the participation of the Government of Bangladesh at various international processes on migration such as the Bali process, the Colombo process, the Bern Initiative etc. Participation in these Regional Consultation Processes is important to assist the government in managing migration.

Cambodia

IOM Cambodia's Enhanced Migration Management (EMM) Project has been working with the Department of Foreigners (DOF), the National Police under the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Cooperation to strengthen and enhance Cambodia's migration management administrative capacity to handle regular and irregular migrant flows. In particular, strengthened migration management capacity will allow Cambodia to combat illegal migration and trafficking in persons in a more effective manner and to meet its obligations under the Bangkok Agreement and Manila Process. IOM Cambodia has been working with the Department for Foreigners (Immigration), the National Police, the Ministry of Interior, the National Airport Authority and airlines to further the objectives of the EMM programme by consolidating Cambodia's tactical intelligence capacity with particular reference to combating terrorism and trans-border crime in an effective and sustainable manner.

Timor Leste

In April 2006, IOM began the implementation of a two-year Enhanced Migration Management Project which provides technical support to the four principal ministries

involved in migration policy, i.e. the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Labour and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Tanzania

IOM is involved with upgrading legislation which enables the identification and prosecution of trafficking offenders. This legislation is in the infant stages but progress is ongoing with the Ministry of Justice to amend the law to better address trafficking issues.

West Africa

IOM, in partnership with ECOWAS and with the support of the Swiss Government, organized a workshop in Abuja, Nigeria from 14 – 16 November, 2005 in an effort to enhance the capacity to manage migration within the region and to revitalize the Migration in West Africa (MIDWA) process as a Regional Consultative Process (RCP). The workshop provided participants with an overview of global developments in migration, including the recent report of the Global Commission on Migration (GCIM) and the International Agenda for Migration Management (IAMM), as well as specific subjects based on EMM. The workshop succeeded in sparking renewed interest in revitalizing and solidifying the MIDWA process as a sustainable regional consultative process designed to enhance regional cooperation on migration and to serve the specific needs and interests of ECOWAS Member States.

To sustain the MIDWA process and to address issues of immediate concern, IOM has recently designed a multi sectorial, multi-annual, MIDWA programmes designed to combine dialogue with concrete capacity building activities to enhance migration management capacities of these West African States

Since lack of awareness and knowledge on the ECOWAS legal framework have produced unwelcome consequences as authorities, public officials and/or populations remain unfamiliar with the rights and obligations governing Freedom of Movement within the West African Community. There is a need to raise awareness on relevant international and regional instruments, which protect migrants or regulate migration. It is necessary to strengthen knowledge on the international legal framework that governs migration issues. Additionally, it is equally important for Member States to discuss how these international legal norms impact on national migration legislation and policy within the community. To address such issues, IOM in the West African region carried out specialised legal training on the Human Rights of Migrants in September 2004 and projects to organise trainings to be carried out in the Fall 2006 in Senegal and Mali at a national level. IOM, in cooperation with the ECOWAS Secretariat and Court of Justice, will also organize and conduct a Training Course on International and Regional Migration Law for government officials of ECOWAS member countries. The Course will provide an overview of International and Regional Migration Law, and focus on the specific migration issues for the region, such as freedom of movement and residence, irregular migration, labour migration, trafficking and smuggling in human beings, and migration and security.

Mauritania

With irregular migration on the rise in Mauritania, as witnessed by the recent increase in the number of stranded smuggled migrants, the Government of Mauritania (GoM) is ill-equipped to undertake a coordinated and efficient fight against this phenomenon.

IOM, over the past two years, has been supporting the GoM to better address irregular migration and smuggling through assistance to assess and improve national capacity to respond to irregular migration, including the provision of assisted voluntary return, migration management training and border management evaluations. These pilot activities initially supported by the IOM 1035 funding facility have led to the development of more substantial programmatic responses involving assisted voluntary return, border management enhancements, human resource upgrades and humanitarian support services to address the various challenges associated with managing migration on the whole.

Uganda

The Capacity Building for Migration Management Programme (CBMMP) aims at further strengthening the migration management capability of Uganda (as well as Kenya and Tanzania).

Achievements include:

- 1) Legislative review: Uganda's Chief of Immigration, together with chiefs of immigration from Kenya and Tanzania, was presented with full sets of material produced under the legislative component of the CBMMP and were officially asked by the East Africa Community (EAC) at its annual Chiefs of Immigration meeting to review the Ugandan migration law along the lines of IOM's recommendations. Uganda has yet to decide whether or not to consider changes in its law.
- 2) Training and Resource Centre: IT training for over 200 immigration officials has been carried out in Uganda (and Kenya and Tanzania). Further, the Uganda Training and Resource Centre works are nearing completion, and the stocking of the Centre with publications and IT equipment has almost been finalized.
- 3) EAC regional developments: EAC regional consultants and Regional Project Manager attended annual EAC Chiefs of Immigration meeting in Kampala to table CBMMP-project outcomes for submission to the EAC Council of Ministers. The chiefs were requested to make further progress on revising migration laws in a regional (harmonized) context.
- 4) Immigration Border Procedures Workshop and Manuals: A regional workshop was conducted to finalize national border procedure manuals in Uganda (as well as in Kenya and Tanzania). This homegrown procedural manual will be published and used by all front-line immigration officials in Uganda.

▪ **Providing appropriate assistance in response to a request by an LDC Government, and in accordance with the UN Charter, to help the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as supporting confidence-building, post-conflict peace-building, reintegration and reconstruction, thus paving the way for durable peace and sustainable development**

General activities

The successful return and reintegration into civilian life of ex-combatants is an essential part of the transition from conflict to stability and peace. While IOM is not engaged in disarmament per se, it does participate in Demobilization and Reintegration activities, which unfold after the signature of a Peace Agreement.

The issue of Internal Displacement is multifaceted and many organizations work on different aspects of it. Since no single organization is exclusively mandated with the protection, assistance and recovery needs of IDPs, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) endorsed the concept of the “Collaborative Response” in which a range of UN and non-UN agencies work together in a collaborative way on the basis of their individual mandate and expertise. Since the 1980s and 90s, IOM has increased its involvement in assistance to internally displaced persons. IOM’s activities consisting of emergency assistance, displacement activities, return preparation, livelihood development, re-integration and capacity building, are aimed at assisting and protecting those who are displaced. Such interventions have improved the lives of IDPs, returnees, host and return communities and significantly contributed towards developing stability within regions.

As part of its cooperation with the African Union, IOM has provided technical support in the review of the Policy Framework for Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), which are intended to serve as a guide that can be adapted and applied to individual countries or sub-regions emerging from conflicts to assist them in their endeavours towards reconstruction, security and growth. The objective of this AU Policy Framework on PCRD is to improve timeliness, effectiveness and coordination of activities in post conflict countries and to lay the foundation for social justice and sustainable peace, in line with Africa’s vision of renewal and growth.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, IOM implements nine programmes designed to reverse the effects of an extended period of mass population displacement and to promote sustainable and productive reintegration of the affected population. Five of these programmes address migration and repatriation, while the other four mitigate the negative effects of such population movements by rehabilitating communities, building capacity and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Through its country-wide programme, IOM maximises the benefit to communities by engaging the beneficiaries in its return and disarmament programmes in reconstruction and sustainable economic rehabilitation.

IOM also assists in the voluntary return of Afghans through IOM’s global network of offices and its airline agreements. The organization provides pre-departure return information and counseling, transportation, transit arrangements and reception assistance to ensure return in safety and dignity. It has assisted over 4,400 migrants to voluntarily return home from 30 countries in five continents. Returnees from the European Union receive an integrated reception and reintegration package through the EC-funded RANA programme. They are given access to medical assistance, temporary lodging, as well as transportation to their final destination. The IOM reintegration unit helps returnees to identify income generation opportunities by providing them with counseling, vocational and management training. It also provides job referrals, micro and

small enterprise start-up help, and on the job training. To date, IOM has developed nearly 900 reintegration projects for returnees.

An IDP Return Assistance programme is also implemented; with IOM registering and profiling identified IDPs in close coordination with the Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation (MoRR) and the United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). IOM also assist in Transportation assistance, by providing pre-departure medical screening and running transit centres along the most frequently used return routes. The organization shares statistics on IDP returns with authorities and other humanitarian agencies.

IOM is one of the major implementing partners when it comes to reintegration. It is assisting the reintegration of former combatants back into society after over twenty years of armed conflict. Some of the key reintegration options include: vocational trainings, on-the-job trainings, employment assistance, self-employment assistance (small business start up) and micro finance. IOM was assigned to assist the reintegration of 30% of the total caseload under different reintegration projects for former combatants. Working in 20 provinces, IOM assisted the reintegration of almost 20,000 former combatants. While assisting former combatants IOM extended its activities to include former child soldiers, wives of former combatants, disabled and other vulnerable members of the communities.

Upon request from the Afghan government to provide support in the reconstruction efforts, IOM Afghanistan is implementing a community stabilization Quick Impact Programme (QIP) consisting of implementing small infrastructure projects such as community irrigation, clean water systems, road related activities, rehabilitation of government buildings, and construction of court houses, post offices and market centres, as well as micro-finance, income generation and training projects. The procedures used have supported the confidence building of Afghan nationals in the Government of Afghanistan.

IOM is also playing a prominent role in schools and clinics refurbishment and construction initiatives. An educated workforce is a precondition for restructuring the economy, and for creating a culture that supports political stability and good governance. The same is true regarding access to health, as Afghanistan's growth strategy will not take-off without a healthy and fit workforce. The long-term future of Afghanistan depends upon adequate, long-term investment in the health sector. Those programmes are coordinated with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health and are based on their Priority Plans.

A priority for IOM is to ensure that the reconstruction efforts reach the most remote and unstable areas of the country and thereby assisting in the peace- and confidence-building processes in the country.

IOM implements its programmes in Afghanistan in close cooperation with the Ministries of Education, Health, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Refugees and Repatriation, Women's Affairs and Afghan Diaspora and Experts, together with the Afghan Civil Service Commission, provincial governors and local community leaders.

Uganda

IOM carried out needs assessments in several districts to assess the basic needs of IDPs in view of enabling them to secure a livelihood while living in camps or when they get back to their villages. Following a request from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Department for Disaster Preparedness and Management (DDPM), OCHA, and humanitarian agencies operating in the North, IOM also collected, through a survey, data on IDPs and return communities. This facilitated the formulation of an effective IDP assistance strategy and the identification of concrete activities to support return and reintegration. The survey allowed the strengthening of the government capacity to coordinate assistance for IDP return through the setting up of an Information Collection, Analysis and Dissemination System within the Department of Disaster Management and Preparedness, as well as assisting in the setting up of an IDP Return and Reintegration Task Force to coordinate IDP return.

IOM activities also included IDP profiling (data collection in the IDP settlements, camp profiling and return area profiling, comprehensive profiling of IDPs and returnees, data entry, processing and analysis...), information counselling and referral services (ICRS) including reinsertion of former combatants/reporters from Sudan, Kenya and within Uganda into their communities, enhancement of the technical capacity of the Amnesty Commission (AC) to implement the provisions of the Amnesty Act 2000 for the reintegration of reporters into normal civilian life in Uganda and direct support to the reporters through organizations and local NGOs in family tracing, transportation, reunion and follow up the reintegration process of reporters amidst their communities.

IOM also set up the HQs for the EU Election Observation Mission in January 2006, which involved hiring and training local staff, setting up a media-monitoring center, and providing all logistical and operational services in close collaboration with other assigned agencies.

In Uganda, IOM is working in close cooperation with the Government, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister and other humanitarian actors.

Ethiopia

With regard to responses to the prevention and resolution of conflicts, IOM Addis has conducted trainings in Somali region to local NGOs and district administrations to shed light on the major components of ethnic-based conflicts and the strategies to prevent and fight such kinds of conflicts. Generally, trainings and awareness raising forums are given due attention under the IOM Addis programme in order to pave the way to enduring peace and sustainable development.

The UN Country Team in Ethiopia of which IOM is a member has received a Human Security Fund of about \$ 1.4 Million USD from the Japanese Government. This human security project seeks to support vulnerable communities, frequently forced into becoming refugees and internally displaced mainly as the consequence of chronic vulnerability and internal conflict. It focuses on enhancing people's capabilities for a post crisis recovery and long-term development. In particular the project aims at improving the protection and empowerment of the marginalized groups in the Somali Regional State (SRS) through the implementation of capacity building initiatives, the development

and rehabilitation of social service facilities, the promotion of livelihood diversification and the rehabilitation of the environment.

By mid-May 2006 IOM will have assisted 5,300 IDPs to return to their communities. IOM Addis has also undertaken post-return activities in its assistance to IDP communities including follow up on the IDP reintegration process, planning and organizing IDP Workshop with the Somali regional Government and mapping out of the remaining IDP caseload in the Somali Region. The mapping of the remaining IDP caseloads in the IDP hosting area will assist in giving IOM and its partners a clear picture about the number of IDPs remaining behind in the areas, type of assistance needed as well as assist all stakeholders to plan on a return and reintegration strategy for the remaining IDP caseload. IOM is also mobilizing resources to undertake programmes, which will assist in the reintegration of returned IDP households. IOM is working closely with focal persons from the returned IDP communities, receiving population and the local government to establish a committee to identify the critical humanitarian needs of the communities. At the end of the project period, IOM will prepare a final project report, which will provide an input towards the drafting of a national IDP Strategy.

Upon the request of the Government of Ethiopia (FDRE), the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the Somali Regional State (SRS), IOM has undertaken the implementation of a nine-month project targeting assistance towards the return of 5,500 Internally Displaced Persons in the Somali Regional State in Eastern Ethiopia. The IDP communities had been living in crowded camps for over 5 years since their initial displacement from their home areas. Due to the poor sanitary conditions in the IDP camps and the lack of adequate health facilities, many of the children in the camps were affected by preventable illnesses such as water borne diseases. The arrival of the IDP population in the area has put pressure on the existing resources of the host area. IDPs and the local host community were constantly competing for access to water, firewood and farming land, which at times resulted in conflicts between the two communities. It is expected that IOM's return assistance to the IDPs will help ease the pressure on the natural resources in the area thus creating relatively easier access to the host community.

IOM Addis has also attended several meetings on post-conflict resolution such as meeting of Experts on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa, the Regional Conference on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in the IGAD, TICAD (Tokyo International Cooperation on African Development) Conference on Consolidation of Peace in Africa among other regional meetings.

Sudan

IOM has provided information and support services to IDPs in Sudan after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Zambia

IOM Zambia has been working with the government on refugee programmes that aim at solving the post conflict situation through voluntary return and resettlement activities for refugees who have been hosted in Zambia for the last five decades. In particular more than 63, 000 Angolans have been repatriated back home from Zambia during the last three years. On resettlement, over 1500 refugees have been assisted in resettling to

countries, such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, the UK and USA during the same period. These activities have been undertaken with full collaboration and participation of UNHCR and the Government of Zambia.

Sierra Leone

In 2001, the International Organization for Migration, Freetown was invited by UNHCR and the Government of Sierra Leone to assist with the repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees by sea from Guinea. IOM Freetown assisted with marine vessel management, reception of 37,000 Refugees and their handover to UNHCR transit camps.

Due to the improved security situation in Sierra Leone, the return of civilian authority throughout the country, successful demobilization of ex-combatants and the holding of free and fair elections, UN-OCHA and the Government of Sierra Leone requested IOM's assistance in the return and resettlement of IDPs in all areas declared safe. From the beginning of operations in 2001 until the end of December 2002, a total of 160,000 IDPs were returned with dignity and resettled in their areas of origin or of their choice in Sierra Leone.

Due to the existing experience of IOM in the field of ex-combatant reintegration, as well as the contributions already made by IOM to the return of IDPs and refugees in Sierra Leone, the Government of Sierra Leone (NCDDR) and the UN-OCHA approached IOM to prepare a proposal that will support the creation of sustainable income-generating opportunities for demobilized ex-combatants at the level of their communities of resettlement in Kono and Kailahun districts. A total of 200 ex-combatants, who opted for reintegration through on-the-job training in building construction skills, completed a one-month literacy course in order to fully participate in trade theory and practical on-the-job training at two school rehabilitation sites in Koidu, Kono district. In addition, the project reintegrated a total of 600 ex-combatants through on-the-job, vocational and apprenticeship skills training at recommended trade outlets within their areas of resettlement.

The resettled Internally Displaced Persons needed accommodation at their places of resettlement, which in most cases had been destroyed during the protracted civil war. The project provided supplementary emergency shelter, permanent basic shelter rehabilitation materials, and shelter construction technical assistance. In order to effectively utilise the donation, the beneficiaries contributed in the form of local materials and labour. The project constructed a total of 300 houses in the war-devastated districts of Kono and Kailahun.

IOM also provided logistics and administration support to the European Union Observer Mission to the Sierra Leone Parliamentary and Presidential 2002 elections. IOM was responsible for the provision and arrangement of flights, visas, accreditation letters, transport, office accommodation and residential accommodation in the capital city and in the provinces including health requirements for the EU-EOM short term and long-term observers. The organization assisted with administration issues including, office rent contracts, equipment purchase and hire, and payment of allowances, and recruitment of national and international staff and arranging elections related briefings. The EU Observer Mission managed to observe the elections in all the districts and had access to all chiefdoms during the elections.

Timor Leste

IOM in Timor-Leste is providing support to communities in identifying their priorities and resources through a consultative and participatory process. The EC-funded Community Stabilisation Project has provided support to district-level administration so as to ensure that the needs of remote communities are considered and government and other assistance coordinated. The Project will additionally provide focused support to recently elected village councils. Project assistance to village councils is being designed in coordination with the Ministry of State Administration and the National Institute of Public Administration.

IOM provided support for the return of over 180,000 former refugees to their place of origin during the post-conflict period and supported several community reconciliation activities, which fostered dialogue between returnees and their community of origin. IOM also supported the development of a communication campaign aimed at the camps in West Timor. The campaign sought to combat misinformation about the conditions in the country so as to allow refugees to take an educated decision regarding their return.

Finally, IOM supported the demobilisation of 1,300 former FALINTIL guerilla fighters, a precondition to long-term stability.

IOM is presently an active participant in the working group dealing with the recent displacement of nearly 40,000 IDPs in East Timor. IOM is providing not only logistics and transportation support, but is also providing direct assistance to the Ministry of Labour in the collection of data. IOM has additionally been tasked by the Group, which is chaired by the Minister of Labour and Community Reinsertion, to produce a draft reintegration policy document for consideration by the inter-agency coordination body.

Guinea-Bissau

IOM has supported the European Union Election Observation Mission in Guinea-Bissau by providing logistics and administrative support. IOM assistance aimed at supporting the democratisation and stabilization of the country. IOM is also active in organizing and managing the external registration and voting to include refugee and displaced populations.

Haiti

IOM in Haiti has been working with populations in conflicted regions of the country and the relevant Government of Haiti entities to (re-)establish confidence through the promotion of dialogue and a process of consultation, around urgent infrastructure rehabilitation needs. Additionally, IOM Haiti is working with the GoH to mount a program for the reintegration of Haitian deportees into society.

Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities

- **Providing enhanced and strengthened support to LDCs in their efforts to build national capacity for formulating and implementing population and development policies and strategies and to access and use appropriate technology and know-how**

General activities

IOM activities contribute to improved operational systems that underpin and enable effective migration management. These can include travel document issuance systems, data systems related to migration and border management technologies. Wherever possible, activities in this area are interwoven with policy and legal frameworks, training and human resources development.

Afghanistan

Through a DIMA (Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs) funded project, IOM is assisting the Government of Afghanistan to bring its passport document and issuance procedures up to international standards. A new machine-readable booklet design has been completed and training on machine-readable passport production procedures has begun. The passport issuance facility will be remodeled to increase security and facilitate the issuance process for Afghan citizens.

Zambia

At the request of the Zambian Government, IOM has been assisting the Department of Immigration to improve its migration management system through capacity building and computerization of its major border points. In particular IOM carried a needs assessment at selected border posts and based on the findings, undertook the implementation of a project at the Lusaka International Airport by establishing an exit / entry data base with watch list capabilities for the capture of the migration flows through the airport. Further training in both basic and specialized computer knowledge was provided to staff to enable them use the installed facilities.

IOM intends to roll out to four other border posts, the pilot project initially covering Lusaka International Airport as prioritized by the Department of Immigration. The project once completed, will enable the planning and the implementation of comprehensive border management through stage setting action to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of the Government of Zambia to address the issue of orderly migration and management in accordance with national development priorities, and to meet migration needs in a comprehensive, cooperative and self reliant fashion.

Tanzania

The CBMM project in collaboration with the Tanzanian Immigration department and two other countries in East Africa aims not only to improve border security but provides opportunities for the immigration department to better manage the movement of people in and out of its borders. The immigration infrastructure was not capable of fully managing its affairs and the CBMM project has been welcomed by the GoT in order to upgrade the knowledge and expertise of the immigration department.

The CBMM project includes upgrading IT expertise among the Immigration staff and other issues regarding passport fraud, infiltrator recognition and many other aspects of border security vis a vis passport and travel documentation.

- **Providing support, including technical, financial or other forms of support, to LDCs to improve conditions of labour supply and mitigate problems of migration**

General activities

In areas of high migration pressure, IOM addresses the root causes of economically forced migration by enhancing the ability of governments and other key actors in the migration field to focus development actions more strategically on origin country migration dynamics. Projects in this area are defined by actions to foster economic opportunity in areas with high rates of forced economic out-migration through such activities as establishment of micro-enterprises, employment enhancement and community development programmes.

IOM's prime objective in seeking to facilitate the management of labour migration is to promote regular labour migration, within the framework of combating irregular migration, fostering the economic and social development of countries of origin, transit and destination, while respecting the rights and integrity of migrants. IOM assists in the review and upgrading of national policies, legal frameworks and migration management structures needed to introduce or enhance labour migration systems. Workable legislative and administrative models, activities to better target labour migration flows, and personnel development and training opportunities are important components of these efforts. Pre-Departure Training for Labour Migrants including Cultural orientation/language training and Vocational training are also part of IOM activities.

Afghanistan

IOM projects are implemented using local contractors. Throughout the implementation IOM is providing technical assistance and on the job training to the afghan nationals in particular in the field of engineering. Capacity building of the private construction sector is provided. By using local contractors, income possibilities are strengthened and the local economy is improved. Through its programmes, IOM creates jobs in often desperately poor communities and ensures access to education and health services thus mitigating problems of migration.

In the area of counter-trafficking, IOM organized awareness-raising activities among Afghan authorities, capacity building activities for the Ministry of Women's Affairs and counter trafficking training sessions for Afghan consular officials. The organization also created Counter Trafficking working groups to support the Transitional Afghan State and NGOs to address counter-trafficking efforts and offered policy guidance on anti-trafficking legislation.

Uganda

At the request of the Government of Uganda, IOM implemented a project on Labour Migration which aimed at building the capacity of the Government of Uganda (GoU) to expand legal labour migration opportunities for the benefit of social and economic development in Uganda and countries of destination, provide appropriate labour migration management, protect the citizens of Uganda abroad due to employment, and work against unemployment and illegal migration. As a result, an External Employment Unit (EEU) was set up with the help of IOM. Logistical support was also offered to the

unit. A legal framework and the EEU rules and Regulations were also drafted with support from IOM. The Legal framework was launched last year by the Government of Uganda.

Ethiopia

IOM Addis is working closely with government agents that deal with labour migration, inter alia, the Ministry of Justice, the Department of Immigration and Nationality Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA). The programme's immediate objective is to develop comprehensive and integrated activities towards the prevention of trafficking, protection of victims of trafficking and prosecution of traffickers. In view of the above, IOM Addis is planning to assist the development of a database for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The database will be implemented by the work permit department in MOLSA to manage information related to migrant workers, employment agencies, employment agreement processes, tracking illegal users of the public employment service and other related information.

A number of trainings have been provided to build the human and institutional capacities of law enforcement bodies such as the police, prosecutors and judges on basic concepts of internal and external trafficking with the view to bringing traffickers to justice.

IOM Addis is implementing a project called 'Debterachen' to sensitize female students on pertinent issues regarding trafficking while encouraging them to pursue their education, both in schools and within the informal sector. It plans to reach Ethiopian girls at puberty age, when they are likely to drop out of school and become vulnerable to irregular migration and trafficking. The project covered each region in Ethiopia and focused on issues of trafficking, schools drop outs, and HIV/AIDS. IOM Addis has conducted this nationwide strategy in collaboration with the Ethiopian Teachers Association in the process of distributing relevant IEC materials for the target groups and in the arrangement of logistics. IOM Addis is also working with the Ethiopian Teachers' Association to attract voluntary services in educational and training fields.

Zambia

Acting on the recommendations from IOM-sponsored regional consultative Workshop on Migration and Development on Southern Africa held in Zanzibar in March 2004, under the aegis of Migration in Southern Africa (MIDSA), IOM commissioned a study in Zambia with the objective of gaining insight into the migration and development situation and to formulate specific recommendations for balancing the negative impacts and positive implications of skills migration for the country. These recommendations include improving migration data collection and analysis, filling critical human resource gaps through temporary returns targeting training needs in various sectors, developing a central migration structure, involving diaspora in resource mobilization for the development of the country of origin through establishing and strengthening business linkages and remittances.

Sierra Leone

Due to the existence of vast borders with limited security enforcement capacities, the Mano River Union (MRU – composed of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and Côte d'Ivoire border areas are particularly vulnerable to cross-border problems and instability,

including banditry, international crime and other security related threats. The MRU Secretariat has specifically reiterated the inability of MRU Countries to patrol their porous borders and to address the alarming numbers of illegal border crossings of people, smuggling of migrants, goods and arms, and human trafficking, which makes border management an imperative issue for the MRU countries and Côte d'Ivoire.

The 15th Protocol to the Declaration of the MRU on Defence, Security, Internal and Foreign affairs (May 2000) formally expands the mandate of the MRU Secretariat to contribute to the maintenance of peace, security and stability of the Member States of the Union and charges it to create an effective mechanism to monitor and ensure the security of common borders with the aim of preventing and averting security related problems in the border regions of Member States. Within this framework, the Secretary General of the MRU requested IOM to assist with the identification of MRU and Côte d'Ivoire border management and control needs, and to implement appropriate measures to strengthen border management and control through capacity building initiatives.

Cambodia

IOM Cambodia has been working with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY) to return and reintegrate trafficked women and children from selected countries in the Mekong Region (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Lao PDR). This cooperation aims to develop sustainable support mechanisms and structures for the identification, return, recovery and integration of victims of trafficking within government and NGO agencies. IOM Cambodia is implementing a long-term recovery and reintegration assistance to trafficked women and children Programme and is conducting capacity building with provincial and district level officers of MOSVY to establish a coordinated system of return and reintegration in conjunction with the Government of Vietnam. IOM Cambodia has also strengthened the Coordination and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation.

IOM Cambodia contributed to building the capacity of government and NGOs to understand and respond to the psychosocial needs of trafficked victims, of the police, investigating prosecutors and judges to protect child victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking, of the front line provincial law enforcement and judiciary to identify and efficiently handle cases of trafficking and of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA).

Through its cooperation with MOWA, IOM Cambodia has conducted advocacy campaigns. Success in international advocacy began with the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Trafficking that brought together the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Tourism, Justice, Social Affairs Interior and the Ministry of Women's and Affairs. This committee was responsible for negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Trafficking in Women and Children between Cambodia and Thailand, which was signed in 2003. Concrete steps are currently being taken to implement this MoU. In October 2005 and under the chair of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, a further agreement between Cambodia and Vietnam was signed on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking and an action plan for implementation is currently being developed. In November 2005, the Ministry's effective advocacy campaign resulted in Cambodia ratifying the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

IOM Cambodia has also been working with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, and victim support agencies on the Returns of Cambodian Victims of Trafficking from Malaysia. An official mechanism for return has been established in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which allows IOM to respond quickly to support the return of Cambodian victims of trafficking identified, by the Cambodian Embassy in Malaysia.

IOM Cambodia has helped developing a National Strategy on Labour Migration with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. The primary aim of this project is to enhance the capacity of the Royal Government of Cambodia to manage labour migration issues and expand legal labour migration opportunities for the benefit and development of the country and in a manner that will protect migrants from trafficking and exploitation. To this end, a labour migration advisor will be placed within the Ministry to undertake a country assessment to identify where the introduction of new laws, policies and measures can improve labour migration management.

Tanzania

In early 2004 IOM Nairobi engaged a consultant to produce a report regarding labour issues in Tanzania.

Timor Leste

IOM has, in conjunction with ILO, supported the Ministry of Labour in drafting its Foreign Workers Law. IOM assistance focused on assisting the GoTL to find a balance between the need to address unemployment concerns and the requirement to motivate the economy and foster an exchange of skills among workers.

Bangladesh

IOM has assisted the GoB in many policy formulations such as the formulation of the Overseas Employment Policy, which is in its final stage while awaiting government adoption. IOM was part of the Technical Committee that drafted the policy. On the issue of trafficking, IOM has been assisting the GoB to formulate a National Anti Trafficking Strategic Plan of Action.

To assist in "mitigating problems of migration", IOM Dhaka has been working in addressing irregular migration. All counter trafficking projects such as enhancing capacity of law enforcement officials in addressing trafficking in persons, public information campaigns, working with the local level governments, etc. all are aimed at addressing irregular migration. IOM Dhaka has also been working to enhance the capacity of immigration officials in Bangladesh to address irregular migration. Finally, our labour migration programmes, such as creating awareness on safe migration through outreach activities, aim to ensure that migration is safe and beneficial.

Apart from the government, IOM has been providing financial and technical support to the migrant associations of Bangladesh and the various NGOs working on migration and trafficking.

IOM Dhaka has been supporting the functioning of two forums, "Bangladesh Migration and Development Forum" and the "Bangladesh Counter Trafficking Thematic Group".

Both these forums create an environment of partnership among the government, donor communities, national and international private sector and civil society. IOM Dhaka has also been assisting in enhancing human capacities of potential migrants with projects to provide potential migrants (nurses and hotel workers) English language skills and also in formulating standardized training for domestic migrant workers of Bangladesh.

Haiti

IOM Haiti is providing institutional capacity building to the Government of Haiti on labour migration issues through a 7-month long process of consultation and discussion among the various governmental entities concerned.

- **Assisting with efforts, including through technical or other forms of support, to introduce innovative education and training methods, including distance learning**

Ethiopia

IOM Addis in collaboration with the Ethiopian Civil Service College is in the process of facilitating distance learning through tele/video conference for the Ethiopian diaspora to give lectures on various topics such as decentralization, justice reform programme, automation of customs, etc.

Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi

In the framework of the Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, three universities have been selected for the implementation of a distance-learning project. Those were the "Université Nationale du Rwanda", the "Université Nationale du Burundi" and the "Université de Lubumbashi" in DRC. In order to facilitate the design and implementation of that project, a round-table on "Communication and information technologies in education and the role of teachers from the diaspora" was organized in Butare on January 31st and February 1st 2006 by IOM, the "Université Nationale du Rwanda" and the "Université Libre de Bruxelles". The round-table resulted in a better knowledge of the education needs that could be covered through distance learning and of the potential opportunities to develop successful and effective distance learning activities.

- **Encouraging and facilitating networking among educational and training institutions in developed countries and those in LDCs, including provision of voluntary services in educational and training fields**

Afghanistan

A number of Afghans living abroad and willing to return to Afghanistan to contribute to the reconstruction of the country were deployed by IOM to work at the Ministry of higher educations, in universities and at the Ministry of Education.

- **Supporting LDCs' efforts in developing an incentive system to attract highly qualified nationals working abroad**

General activities

In 2001 IOM launched a new programme: "Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA)" in Libreville, Gabon. MIDA is an institutional capacity building programme that aims to develop the potential synergy between the profiles of African migrants and the demand from countries, by facilitating the transfer of vital skills and resources of the African diaspora to their countries of origin. MIDA is based on the notion of mobility of people and resources and, as such, offers options for reinvestment of human capital, including temporary, long-term or virtual return. Approaches are tailored to meet the needs of the origin country without jeopardizing migrants' legal status in their host countries or newly adopted home countries. Equipped with their competences, new ideas and expertise gained abroad, migrants can be a tremendous asset for the development of their countries of origin in different fields (education, social affairs, health and other policies etc.). They bring a new vision, they represent forces for change.

Through remittances, migrants working abroad can provide significant support to their families in the country of origin and contribute to the economic growth of the country. Countries with sizeable migrant populations are increasingly taking steps to strengthen these remittance flows, and link their diasporas with development. IOM can develop databases of diasporas that help governments better target investment opportunities for their émigrés, and plan re-circulation opportunities to take advantage of émigrés' skills for local development. IOM also assists governments in conceptualizing or enhancing such systems and in enhancing the technical and policy features.

In response to the growing importance of remittances and their development potential for LDCs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Government of Benin and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries (UN-OHRLS) organized a two-day ministerial conference on Remittances to LDCs on 9 and 10 February 2006 in Cotonou, Benin, entitled "Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries on Enhancing the Development Impact of Remittances".

This conference grew out of series of earlier meetings and initiatives linked to LDCs, including:

- the 2004 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations which undertook an in-depth and comprehensive review of the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" and concluded that micro-finance intermediation (savings, credits and remittances) could have significant impact on poverty eradication and stimulate growth in LDCs.
- the Ministerial Breakfast Roundtable "Towards Enhancing the Development Impact of Migrant Remittances in the Least Developed Countries" co-hosted by the Government of Benin and IOM within the framework of the ECOSOC High-Level segment. It has recognized six priority areas for action: lowering remittance transfer costs; improving access to remittance services; better information provision; support to migrant associations; improving knowledge base and creating a conducive policy and institutional framework for remittance transfers and investment.

It is against this background that Rogatien Biaou, Foreign Minister of Benin and Chair of the LDC Group at the time, initiated the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries. The event brought together over 90 participants from 32 LDCs and 2 observer countries¹, as well as several ministers and high level experts from international organizations, regional banks, micro-finance institutions and civil society/diaspora organizations². Financial support was provided by the Governments of Ireland and Norway, the South-South Cooperation Unit of UNDP, World Bank and IOM's 1035 Facility.

The conference provided its participants with a platform to share experiences and lessons learned, consult on issues faced by migrant remitters and propose practical solutions to optimize the development benefits of remittances. A declaration to optimize the development benefits of remittances and mobilize support for its implementation was adopted.

Afghanistan

IOM provided technical support to the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) for the implementation of the Afghan Expatriate Services project. The organization is also encouraging and supporting the partnership between Afghanistan and Afghan diasporas, by involving the Afghan diasporas in participating in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The Return of Qualified Afghans (RQA) programme is pivotal to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Given the enormous need for qualified Afghans to return and to participate in the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of Afghanistan, the RQA programme aims at filling human resource gaps in Afghanistan's public and private sectors. IOM has also been providing capacity building to ministerial counterparts directly involved in the implementation of the programme.

RQA Kabul is closely working together with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan authorities to identify the key sectors and positions that are crucial to the country's reconstruction and sustainable development plans, and that are unable to be filled by nationals already residing in Afghanistan. At the same time, IOM offices outside Afghanistan are assisting in identifying qualified Afghans in the host countries who are then inserted into the RQA database for eventual matching with jobs suitable to their experience and expertise.

¹ Participating LDCs were Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Laos, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra-Leone, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia. Observer states were Ghana and Nigeria.

² Financial Institutions: African Development Bank, Central Bank of West African States, World Bank; Civil Society and Diaspora Organisations: AFFORD UK, Avenir NEPAD International, Fonkoze, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Foundation for Education, Research and Development, High Council of Beninese Abroad, International Conference Volunteers, Uganda Micro-Finance Union; International Organisations: IOM, UN-OHRLLS, UNDP, UNCFD, OECD.

Currently IOM Afghanistan is implementing 4 RQA projects to support the identification, selection and deployment of 350 highly qualified Afghans to be placed into key jobs that will support the strengthening of effective government structures and the revitalization of the private sector in Kabul and in the provinces. In doing so, selected candidates will assist in the reconstruction, capacity building and development process of their home country.

Highly qualified expatriate Afghans are selected and recruited to work at various ministries and other government agencies. Most of the RQA experts take up assignment as advisors to ministers and top-level management staff.

RQA has been working with public institutions in the identification of human resources gaps to be addressed and priority sectors. To date, over 750 highly qualified expatriate Afghans have assisted the development of ministerial offices by sharing their skills and expertise.

Somalia

Discussions are on going with UNDP Somalia regarding the implementation of a MIDA type project in Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland.

Ethiopia

IOM Addis Ababa is providing support and assistance to relevant public and private sector institutions through a programme called Migration for Development in Ethiopia (MIDEth) with the aim of facilitating the transfer of knowledge, technical know-how and experience, human and financial resources from the Ethiopian diaspora to support social and economic development programmes and activities at all levels in Ethiopia. Some of the MIDEth transfer options include; virtual and tele work through ICT, short-term assignments, long-term return and transfer of remittances for constructive investments in the private sector to generate employment. The programme assists the Ethiopian Ministry for Capacity Building and the Directorate of Expatriate Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the skills and financial resource mobilization of Ethiopians in the diaspora through recruitment, selection, return and reinsertion of Ethiopians professionals in identified priority sectors and specific job vacancies through the various modes of return options.

IOM Addis has provided enhanced technical assistance to various government agents to build national capacity for formulating and implementing development policies and strategies. For instance, IOM Addis trained 15 staff members of the Addis Ababa City Investment Authority (AACIA) on internet basics and updated and maintained the AACIA website to promote investment by Ethiopian diaspora. In addition, a MIDA website, www.ethiopiandiaspora.org is online. The website provides any information to Ethiopian diasporas who want to return, search for employment and invest in their countries. The availability of information in particular in investment is very essential, as it is a core agenda in the process of sustainable growth. IOM Addis is collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the online data registration to facilitate the registration of Ethiopian Diasporas to mobilize their resources.

Sierra Leone

IOM implements a project for qualified Sierra Leone nationals residing in the Netherlands enabling a temporary contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure and public services in Sierra Leone. The Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals Programme (TRQN) is demand-driven, based on the identified and expressed priorities in the country of origin. The available options for knowledge transfer/capacity building in the respective countries of origin are matched with qualified candidates residing in the Netherlands.

Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi

In the Great Lakes region, IOM implements a Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme. It is a demand-driven capacity building programme based on the demand for qualified human resources expressed by the beneficiary countries. This programme is based on the resources of the Congolese, Rwandan and Burundians diasporas who reside in Europe, mainly in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Italy.

The Programme analyses the needs in the priority sectors for development in the three target countries. Through consultations with the governments and other relevant actors, IOM established a complete panorama of sectors suffering the most from qualified resources gaps. This process led to the identification and selection of local institutions likely to benefit from a transfer of skills. Parallel to the analysis of the needs, the programme created a database of members of the diaspora originating from the three target countries and willing to participate in the programme. The needs and skills were eventually matched which resulted in the organization of short or long-term missions in the countries of origin.

During the first phase of the programme, a total of 114 qualified Africans among 427 profiles recorded in the database took part in a total of 159 physical transfers, over a 14-month period (June 2002 to August 2003). After a thorough evaluation of the project, a second phase was launched which resulted in 77 short or long-term missions, 4 permanent returns (from February 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006). A third phase will shortly start incorporating mechanisms to improve some shortfalls identified during the evaluation of the second phase, including the inclusion of the programme in the three countries' PRSPs, national and regional indicative programmes and budgets, a larger ownership of the national actors involved in the programme and the strengthening of the distance learning part of the project.

Benin and Burkina Faso

Through the MIDA programme, IOM Dakar is providing technical support to the government to foster the link with their nationals living abroad and to encourage them to contribute to the socio economic development through the setting up of a website where information on the country's needs is made available. Assistance and training were also given to the governments to build a database.

Senegal

A MIDA programme that target Senegalese nationals living in Italy is underway to identify synergies with financial institutions and banks (in Italy and Senegal) in order to

assess feasibility of flexible financial packages to attract and channel remittances. Counselling and orientation services, training and assistance will be provided to the Senegalese expatriates willing to make their skills, know-how, contacts, invest personal or community financial resources available towards development initiatives (SMEs) in their respective country

▪ **Supporting the strengthening of existing and emerging micro credit institutions in LDCs**

Bangladesh

In terms of strengthening the existing and emerging micro-credit institutions, IOM has been looking to explore the linkages between remittance and the micro-credit institutions. In the Asia Pacific Micro-Credit Summit held in Dhaka in 2004, IOM held an associated session on the issue.

Haiti

IOM in Haiti is working toward establishing firm cooperation with Fonkoze, a leading Haitian micro-finance institution, around the issue of enhancing the development impact of remittances on Haitian society and on the promotion of micro-credit targeting regions of Haiti that are prone to economically-induced high outward migration.

Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs

▪ **Complementing the domestic efforts of LDCs by supporting programmes to improve access of informal, small and medium-sized enterprises to financial and business services, inter alia through public and private venture capital funds and partnerships as well as micro credit mechanisms, and to build the capacity of local sectoral trade support institutions in both the private and public sectors, as a means of transferring and diffusing technology**

Afghanistan

Hundreds of local Afghan construction firms are benefiting from the IOM programme that has completed almost 500 construction projects in the war-shattered country. IOM provides technical support and trainings to the local constructions companies enhancing their managerial and technical skills on using new building techniques. Through the ensuring of a competitive tendering process, the programme supports the access of small and medium-sized companies to business services and implied the private sector growth.

▪ **Providing support for capacity-building programmes that provide training, business-development services, networking and partnering, and the institutional framework to foster entrepreneurial capabilities,**

managerial and technical skills, as well as the growth of internationally competitive small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

General activities

The IOM Employment Assistance Services (EAS) have been developed as an intervention tool to enhance employment opportunities in a specific country or region, when these have been severely affected as a result of either conflict and/or the neglect of the social and economic infrastructures. The EAS works hand-in-hand with the target beneficiaries to help them achieve gainful employment through a variety of support services, such as job screening and referral, with or without on-the-job training, vocational and technical training linked job placement services, and integrated support to the creation and development of micro and small enterprises through the enhancement of specialized business development services.

Afghanistan

Projects have been developed under this programme to support the reintegration of former combatants through income generation programmes. Some of the projects implemented have been focusing on setting up micro-credit institutions for women and former combatants.

Uganda

A new scheme called 'Pilot Enhancement Return Scheme' under which returnees from the United Kingdom are entitled to GBP 3,000, -- reintegration assistance is implemented by IOM. Of the seven returnees assisted since the beginning of 2006, two set up secretarial bureaus, whereas the remaining five returnees are still deciding what type of small-scale business to enter.

Ethiopia

Six returnees, four from the United Kingdom and two from Switzerland, have been provided with financial reintegration assistance to set up small-scale businesses. The UK returnees were assisted through the IOM London's Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP), whereas the returnees from Switzerland have been assisted by IOM Bern's Return Information Fund Project (RIF). USD 10,722 was spent on the reintegration of the six returnees.

Sierra Leone

Quick impact projects implemented in Kono and Kailahun Districts included on the job training in trades leading to the establishment or re-establishment of sustainable micro-economic enterprises:- carpentry, tailoring, soap making, bakery, saw-milling, hairdressing, masonry, welding, auto-mechanics and basic business management. This project was completed in March 2004 with the establishment of 300 micro-enterprises.

Guinea

A project was implemented to contribute to the economic and social empowerment of low-income Guinean women in selected regions of the country through the provision of micro-enterprise development support. IOM in collaboration with a local micro-credit institution, the Rural Credit of Guinea, and the Government of Guinea organized a training in micro-enterprise management in September 2003 for the benefit of sixty low-income Guinean rural women. In November 2003, 56 micro-credits were disbursed to the trainees to create or expand micro-enterprises. One year later, 55 micro-credit loans were totally reimbursed. At the end of the reimbursement period, 50 initial beneficiaries created three cooperatives. They were trained in February 2005 to manage a revolving micro-credit scheme. In July 2005 they welcomed 52 new members. A positive impact can be noted in the daily lives of the beneficiaries and in the way they manage their income-generating activities and earn their living.

Based on the good results achieved by that project, another project, funded by the Belgian Government, aiming at reducing the rural migration and the clandestine immigration of the populations of the Futa area through the creation of micro income-generating projects was implemented. Micro-credit was provided as well as training in micro-enterprises management, modern production, transformation and conservation techniques of agricultural products and marketing. 60 candidates were trained during a two weeks training session, compulsory to benefit from the 2% interest rate micro-credit loans. Reimbursements went well and farmers cooperatives were created in order to maximise the benefits of the project.

DRC and Rwanda

A project was implemented in those two countries with the aim of supporting the establishment of constructive relations between women in the Great Lakes and women originating from these countries and living abroad, in order to contribute effectively to the peace process in progress. IOM in collaboration with the Governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic as well as local partner cooperatives (the "Coopérative d'Épargne et de Crédit de l'Union Nationale des Femmes" and the "Coopérative d'Épargne et de Crédit de la Communauté évangélique de l'Alliance du Congo" organized two seminars on the role that could be played by women in rebuilding, reconciliation and development. Subsequently, trainings sessions that resulted in the granting of micro-credits to 141 beneficiaries (individuals and associations) in DRC and to 43 women's associations in Rwanda were organized. These women developed income-generating activities, which enabled them to improve the conditions of living of their families.

Cambodia

IOM Cambodia is cooperating with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to reduce vulnerability to trafficking as a result of push factors. Recognizing the clear link between socio-economic deprivations and trafficking especially in particular border areas; the Ministry is implementing a pilot project to provide micro-credit and emergency assistance, training and real employment opportunities to vulnerable families.

Timor Leste

IOM's demobilisation Project (FRAP) provided support for individuals seeking to start small enterprises and offered the opportunity for placement in vocational training centres.

Mauritania

IOM has conducted a research in Mauritania on migration and development. In particular the study aimed at identifying economic opportunities for women living in emigration area and investment opportunities for the diaspora towards local development.

Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso

IOM offices in those countries are providing financial reintegration assistance to returnees from the United Kingdom and Switzerland, to set up small-scale businesses.

- **Providing technical and other forms of assistance to LDCs to attain food security and implement rural development programmes**

Timor Leste

IOM in Timor-Leste has implemented nearly 200 grass-roots community-based rural development projects, which have focused on support to communities in the identification of their available indigenous resources and most pressing priorities. IOM's current EC-funded Community Stabilization Project will provide over 1.2 million Euros of direct material support to East Timor's most isolated and underserved communities. During the project's first 24 months, it is calculated that over 30,000 persons have benefited from the joint community/IOM interventions.

Afghanistan

Assistance to attain food security has in particular been approached through an extensive amount of projects implemented to improve and rehabilitate rural irrigation and water resource management systems.

- **Providing support to programmes and initiatives in LDCs, inter alia through ODA to improve rural credit facilities and enhance investment in rural economic and social infrastructure**

Afghanistan

The majority of the infrastructure projects has been implemented in the rural areas and thereby strengthened the rural development of Afghanistan.

Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

General activities

Providing assistance in the response phase of a natural disaster has been one of IOM's key strengths over the last decade. In addition to managing major movements of people following natural disasters, IOM has developed expertise in the pre-emergency phase, when a country's vulnerability can be lowered through the implementation of effective prevention and preparedness measures. Further, in the post emergency phase IOM's programmes bridge the gap between relief and development by the empowerment of the communities to assist in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected communities.

▪ **Providing assistance for disaster mitigation, at the request of affected countries, as well as for improving the capacity of LDCs to identify mitigation scenarios and establishing protective measures and contingency plans**

Afghanistan

A variety of projects under the QIP program have targeted disaster mitigation. In particular in the form of protection of land, roads, houses and irrigation canals against erosion during the flood season. This has been done through watershed management projects and protection wall construction. All season drinking water supply systems has also been created in rural areas as drought disaster mitigation. IOM also implement emergency activities in a view to prevent new internal displacement. 109,175 individuals benefited from Emergency and Preparedness operations undertaken by IOM in 2005 and 2006

Ethiopia

IOM in Addis Ababa has submitted a project proposal in response to the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF); a flexible funding of 4m BP provided by DFID to the UN and NGOs. The objective of the HRF is to enhance UN capacity to respond to emergency needs where there are gaps in humanitarian assistance by providing UN Agencies and NGOs with a rapid and flexible funding mechanism to respond to acute emergencies and life-saving interventions and emergency needs of vulnerable communities without delay. The project will provide life-saving and livelihood protecting interventions including provision of safe drinking water (through water tankering), hand dug wells and restocking to the female headed households in particular for livelihood recovery and sustainable reintegration in their home communities. The project covers a nine-month period and targets about 90,000 people in the IDP receiving areas.

Uganda

At the request of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Department for Disaster Preparedness, and with support from the Swedish International Development Agency, IOM undertook a survey of the Night Commuters³ in Gulu Municipality in collaboration with District authorities and the centers providing overnight support to the Night Commuters. The aim of that survey was not only to provide national authorities and caregivers a snapshot of the characteristics of the Night Commuter population so as to better respond to the specific needs of this vulnerable population, the survey also served as a tool to raise awareness of the daily silent emergency that was occurring in the North, and served as a basis for ensuring the national and international response to the crisis.

- **Supporting LDCs' enhancement of capacity to effectively participate in and benefit from regional and international early warning and disaster mitigation and response networks, including through satellite-driven technologies**

Ethiopia

IOM, in partnership with IGAD, has formulated a project on migration dialogue for IGAD countries for capacity building and cross border migration management including early warning mechanisms to ensure regional and inter-state stability. IOM is working with the UN Strategic Disaster Management Team on a contingency plan to assess and assist IDPs and vulnerable population that may arise from the potential hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea border conflict.

Bangladesh

IOM Dhaka has started working with natural disaster induced or environmentally displaced persons. One of the issues that is currently being looked at is the displacement caused by River Bank Erosion. Though not a disaster, it is one of the major environmental hazards causing displacement in Bangladesh.

Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources

- **Supporting the efforts of LDCs in the areas of financial sector development and reform and in improving access of the poor to credit**

Bangladesh

IOM Dhaka will soon be involved in the financial sector reforms. Particularly with a DFID funded project, under which IOM Dhaka will be partnering with an NGO to implement the social component of a larger remittances management project. Activities include information dissemination, training of bankers, linkages with micro finance institutions etc.

- **Supporting LDCs' efforts in designing and implementing nationally-owned development policies and strategies, including, where appropriate,**

³ Night commuters in this context are children walking at dusk from IDP camps to towns to spend the night for security reasons.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), with full participation of all stakeholders

General activities

The interlinkages between migration and development are complex and can exacerbate existing challenges to achieving national and international development goals. Migration can also yield considerable benefits for the development of the countries of origin, for example through fostering linkages with diasporas, attracting remittances, or facilitating investments and business initiatives by expatriates. In order to enhance the effectiveness of such initiatives, countries of origin need to consider mainstreaming policies that link migration and development into their national planning and development strategies. Migration can then be used as a tool, which contributes to attaining specific, previously defined development objectives. At the same time, integrating migration issues coherently into national development strategies allows to more effectively address challenges arising out of migration for national development. The opportunity created by PRSPs current review has led IOM to address a note to many African Heads of States and Governments and development partners requesting for the integration of migration into PRSPs and national development plans of actions.

Bangladesh

IOM has been participating in the PRSP formulation process and migration has been included in the Bangladesh draft PRSP: "Unlocking the Potential". Furthermore, IOM Dhaka, as part of the UNCT, participates in major development policy and strategy exercises and stresses on the issue of migration, both regular and irregular.

Ethiopia

IOM Addis is also playing an active role in designing and implementing nationally owned development policies and strategies such as the PASDEP, the Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty, Ethiopia Government's development strategy to end poverty equivalent to a PRSP.