



Established in 1951, IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants

IOM Madagascar and Mauritius Facebook page

IOM Madagascar and IOM Mauritius recently launched their joint Facebook page. Here, you will find daily info, pictures, photos, articles, and testimonies on the activities implemented by the IOM in general, and on our activities in Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, and the Union of Comoros in particular.

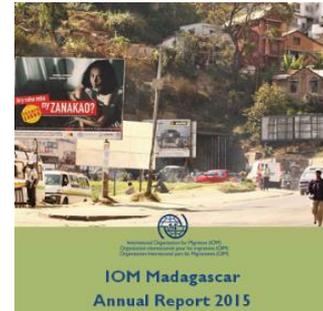
For more info, visit [our FB page](#)



IOM Madagascar - Annual Report

IOM Madagascar recently released its Country Annual Report for 2015. It is one of the first Annual Report from a Country Office fully aligned to the [Migration Governance Framework \(MiGOF\)](#)

To read our Annual Report 2015 click [here](#).



IOM builds capacity of researchers and policymakers on issues of migration, environment and climate change in Mauritius

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management and supported by the IOM Development Fund (IDF), implements since January 2014 the Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) Project. MECLEP is a global project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented in 6 pilot countries in partnership with the concerned governmental and local authorities (Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam). In the face of growing empirical evidence on the link between environmental and climate change and migration, MECLEP aims to enhance the capacity of governmental authorities to take action on environmental migration resulting from knowledge and information sharing about migration and environmental change and the implications for adaptation, and as such, facilitate policy coherence and cooperation on environmental migration.

Some activities pertaining to the research and capacity-building components of the project have already taken place for Mauritius; a national level Country Assessment conducted in 2015 to identify the opportunities and challenges of migration in building resilience against climate change, followed by a Researchers Capacity Building Workshop for the selected MECLEP survey team, EMPRETEC Mauritius.



The survey team was selected to conduct a national household survey to collect data and evidence on the issues of migration, displacement and relocation in the face of environmental and climate change in 3 selected sites; Port-Louis, Flic-en-Flac and Rodrigues. The workshop, held between 25 and 28 April 2016 and facilitated by S. Melde, Research & Policy Officer, Migration & Environment Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and S. Vigil, University of Liège, Center for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM), aimed to define and finalise the sampling strategy for the survey sites, translate the questionnaire in French and Creole and adapt the survey to the Mauritian context. Some 15 surveyors were trained and the questionnaire was pilot-tested among the surveyors, before being administered on the field as from June to July 2016. It is foreseen that a Policymakers Training Workshop will be held for various stakeholders in July and the preliminary results of the household survey will be presented.



Assistance and reintegration of Malagasy VoTs

Through the first months of 2016, IOM continued its provision of direct assistance to Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) through its Emergency Assistance Fund implemented in coordination with the Malagasy Ministry of Population, Social Affairs, and local service providers.

In total, IOM assisted 37 Malagasy Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) by providing comprehensive and tailored emergency medico/psychosocial assistance and socio-economic reintegration support. The latter focused on the provision of courses and vocational trainings on different subjects, aimed to foster the VoTs' economic autonomy and to prevent new possibilities of exploitation and the beneficiary of the assistance being re-trafficked. Trainings undertaken covered areas such as:

animal farming, sewing, hairdressing, restauration and baking, and retailing, and capacity building on management of microenterprises. IOM implemented this assistance in partnership with local service providers around the capital city of Antananarivo, accompanied the beneficiaries throughout the process, and provided them with start-up business kits to launch the income generating activities for which they have been capacitated and trained. Systematic screenings for needs assessments, risk management, and regular monitoring and evaluation of individual reintegration progresses of the beneficiaries was central to the implementation of the Emergency Assistance Fund.

Marina, IOM's Madagascar Project Assistant, acknowledged that *"Working with victims of trafficking is extremely challenging. There have many invisible scars that spruce from their often horrendous experiences of abuse. But with patience, and care, it can be overcome, and it has been rewarding to see the good progresses into social and economic reinsertion that most of them have managed thanks to the IOM assistance implemented under a funding from USAID."*

Tina: a successful story of migration from Madagascar to Mauritius

"It has been 16 years since I moved from my native region of Antananarivo, Madagascar, to Mauritius. In Madagascar, I was not able to provide for my family. In 1999, hearing about an opportunity to work in Mauritius I decided to take the plunge. Moving abroad seemed like the only option, but even that required some money, including paying for my passport and a medical certificate fees. My family contributed by selling some of their possessions in order to give me the chance to go to Mauritius. Ever since then, giving back has been my main goal."

i am a migrant

I am now employed at Wensum Company, a high-end Mauritian textile manufacturer producing upmarket suits distributed through boutique shops worldwide that dress celebrities such as Prince Harry of Wales. Wensum Company played an important part in my adventure to Mauritius. Since I was already experienced in the textile industry, Wensum promised to hire me and managed the administrative paperwork so that I could be issued with a resident permit and a work permit.



I learned Mauritian Creole and a little English, because it was a necessity in order to work properly. I used to live in a dorm close to the company site with other Malagasy employees before moving with my husband to a separate house. In 2008, I became pregnant with my son. I named him Messi in honor of the famous Argentinean football player. My whole family in Madagascar is passionate about football. My son is a fast learner and is gifted in languages and music, I am very proud of him and my new born little girl.

In 2013, not having returned to Madagascar since my departure, I requested leave to visit my family. My father passed away two days after my arrival. It was terribly sad but I needed to be strong for my family. As a migrant, I think you should always look to the future, seize opportunities abroad, but never forget your family. Giving back to the ones you love and who helped you definitely comes first."

Want to contribute to the [#iamamigrant](#) campaign? Check out how [here](#)

Reinforcement of Malagasy Government's capacity on labour migration management – study trip to Mauritius

Between 28th February and 3rd March 2016, as part of its labour migration project, IOM Madagascar led a delegation of the Technical Working Group (TWG) travelling to Mauritius to study, observe, and share experiences concerning Mauritius's policies on labour migration governance. The delegation included senior advisors from the President's and the Prime Minister's Office, officials from the Ministries of Employment, Labour, Foreign Affairs, and Interior, representatives from the Malagasy Embassy in Mauritius, and IOM Madagascar and Mauritius officials.

Mauritius is regarded as a valuable example of labour migration management for its capacity to pro-actively identify south-south and circular migration opportunities, as well as for having long established and refined through time regulatory systems in both the management of inflows and outflows of migrant workers from and to Mauritius.

Participants had the opportunity to meet and exchange with a range of Mauritian government officials, with Malagasy workers in Mauritius, and representatives of the private sector to gain an overarching view of the multifaceted dimension of Mauritius's labour market and its regulation. Currently, more than 40,000 migrants are employed in the island, 10% of which are Malagasy. The local government works hand in hand with enterprises and recruitment agencies to channel flows of migrants into those sectors of the labour market left uncovered by Mauritians. At the same time the Government encourages the inclusions of Mauritian workers into circular migration programmes developed with partner states (such as Canada and Italy), and capacity building programmes where they receive training abroad in key sectors of Mauritian economy. Both these initiatives aim at reducing unemployment and protecting foreign and national workers in the country and abroad.

Thanks to this study tour, the members of TWG recommended to further develop the ongoing successful cooperation between the islands as regards to labour migration; and agreed on key areas of intervention to be considered as follow up to the study tour, notably in the area of data and information management on labour migration in Madagascar, and on the need for a comprehensive and transparent governance and regulatory mechanism.

This initiative is part of the project "Strengthening Labour Migration Management in Madagascar" which was launched in September 2015, with a duration of 18 months. The project seeks to strengthen labour migration management in Madagascar. In particular, the project aims to 1) Enable the practical implementation of the labour migration policies of the Government of Madagascar (GoM) by incorporating migrant protection principles and gender consideration; and 2) strengthen Madagascar's capacity on bilateral labour migration engagements.



Validation Workshop of the Regional Migration and Health Strategy 2016 -2018: Priorities for the South West Indian Ocean Islands

In the context of the implementation of the project, Partnership on Mobility on Health in East and Southern Africa, funded by the Representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Interior of the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles as well as the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) met on the 20th and 21st April 2016 at the Savoy hotel, Beau Vallon, Seychelles, to validate the *Regional Migration and Health Strategy 2016 -2018: Priorities for the South West Indian Ocean Islands*. The Strategy was developed by IOM in close consultation with the IOC and its Member States (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and the French Island, Reunion). This workshop also aimed at developing an action plan to support the implementation of the said Strategy by 2018.

The island states of the Southwest Indian Ocean are experiencing an increase in migratory flows that bring economic benefits but involve at the same time a few challenges, including a major one concerning migrants' health. Several structural and individual factors have been noted as influencing migrants' well-being (poverty, discrimination, linguistic and cultural barriers, the attitudes and practices of migrants and health practices, lack of knowledge about health, separation from family...). The precarious conditions often encountered in the host country also have to be taken into consideration.

This first Strategy on migration and health aims at improving the management of migrants' health and communities affected by migration in the Indian Ocean region by drawing up a list of priority actions to be completed by 2018.

Fostering the contribution of the Malagasy diaspora in France to incentive the national development

In February 2016, IOM Madagascar, with the financial support of the French Embassy in Madagascar, through its Service de cooperation et d'action culturelle (SCAC), and in close coordination with Directorate for the Diaspora of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar, launched a research project on the participation and potential contribution of the Malagasy diaspora to national development.

Although diaspora are usually considered as a potential force for development, Madagascar's diaspora, estimated at between two and three hundred thousand people, is not well studied. In order to determine and establish the most favourable conditions for the participation and engagement of the diaspora to national development, IOM spearheaded in close coordination with the Directorate for the Diaspora at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with the SCAC the technical coordination of this profiling research of the Malagasy diaspora in France (by and large the country that hosts the largest Malagasy diaspora).

The study was carried out in France by a research consortium led by the "Forum des Organisations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations" ([FORIM](#)). Conducted between March and June, it was based on a desk review of relevant literature, on a survey of individual members of the diaspora, and on qualitative interviews with key informants. It analyses the demographic specificities of the Malagasy diaspora, detailing its potential contribution and sets forth short and medium-term recommendations to enable this potential. The first results of the research will be presented on the 1st of September in Paris, at UNESCO headquarters.

Facilitating Labour Mobility for Social and Economic Development in Southern Africa

IOM Mauritius, together with IOM Mozambique, hosted a regional workshop on labour migration in Mauritius, at *Le Canonnier Hotel* from 25 to 27 May, 2016. Considering the changing nature of migration and longstanding challenges to ensuring that the rights of workers crossing borders within Southern Africa are protected, the *Developing a Roadmap to Facilitate South-South Labour Mobility in Southern Africa* project, managed by IOM Mozambique and funded by the IOM Development Fund, is a timely project that involves nine SADC Member States (Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The project, starting in November 2015 and running until February 2017, responds to regional needs through a two-pronged approach: enhance labour migration management capacities and build innovative rights-focused frameworks to strengthen regional labour migration plans and policies.



Key reference tools being drafted by the project include: Regional guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements, a regional labour exporting framework; a model intra-SADC circular migration programme and a regional guide to complement the SADC Labour Migration Action Plan. The workshop aimed to contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of Ministries of Labour in target SADC countries to implement labour migration programmes within the framework of the SADC Regional Action Plan on Labour Migration, SADC Regional Labour Migration Policy Framework, and of the SADC Employment and Labour Protocol. The excellent relationship with Ministries of Labour in the target SADC countries enabled the hosting of this important capacity building and regional workshop by the Ministry of Industrial Relations, Employment and Training of Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius is committed to enhancing labour migration management in close collaboration with IOM; *the Hon. S.S. Callichurn, Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, acknowledged that the "removal of barriers and protection of migrants' rights ought to be at the core of labour mobility programmes, and this will only be possible if national and regional frameworks are strengthened."* A *Validation Meeting will be held in Pretoria within the next months to have high-level validation of the deliverables, followed by a donor conference, in order to share the concept notes and proposals based on the deliverables with various donors based in Southern Africa.*

For more information please reach out to us at IOMMadagascar@iom.int or IOMMauritius@iom.int

Or visit us:

IOM Madagascar
Suite 108, 1st floor, building Sonapar
Galaxy Zone, Antananarivo, MADAGASCAR
+261 20 23 308 09

IOM Mauritius
Suite 608, 6th floor, St James Court
St Denis Street, Port Louis, Mauritius
+230 210 4250