



IOM HELPS THE GOVERNMENT OF MADAGASCAR ENSURE THAT SANITARY CONTROLS AT INTERNATIONAL BORDERS MEET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

## Assessments of Sanitary Measures at the Main Entry Points to Madagascar

In view of the gradual opening of Madagascar's international borders, and in order to allow the resumption of international passenger and cargo transport in complete safety, IOM, in partnership with the Malagasy Customs Department, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Public Health, is implementing the "REfrAMe Madagascar" project, funded by the Government of Japan. Within this project, IOM and its national partners conducted rapid technical assessments between August and September 2021 at the three points of entry into Madagascar, namely the international airports of Ivato and Nosy Be and the port of Toamasina.

These field visits allowed to identify the most urgent needs in terms of equipment, materials and technological systems, but also to review the health procedures in place to address the health crisis. The results of these assessments will provide a better understanding of the health context and will help improve and support the three entry points by putting in place adequate means to prevent, mitigate and manage the risks of spreading of COVID-19 and other diseases with epidemic potential in Madagascar.

## Awareness Campaign on the COVID-19 Response Measures



Severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Madagascar has experienced multiple restrictive measures taken by the government to contain the virus, including restrictions on mobility between certain regions. While saving lives, these measures also affect the country's economy and the lives of a significant portion of the population, who depend on the regular mobility.

To address the implications of the health crisis on security, governance and the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable, IOM, UNDP and UNFPA are implementing the "CAP Madagascar" project, funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). As part of this project, IOM, in coordination with the State Secretariat in charge of the National Gendarmerie, has developed an awareness and education campaign on the restriction measures put in place in response to COVID-19. The campaign slogan "The National Gendarmerie is your ally, not your enemy; together, let's fight against COVID-19", is conveyed in various communication materials, including a poster, a comic book, a fact sheet, radio and television spots, and a radio play, which will be deployed in the national and local media.

## Handover of the Equipment at the MAKI Station



On 3 August 2021, IOM handed over computer equipment to the MAKI public bus station intended to strengthen the surveillance and epidemiological control capacities and to facilitate internal mobility at the main bus stations.

## Bilateral Cooperation Mauritius-Rwanda

IOM facilitated the organization of Virtual Benchmarking Workshops for key Mauritian institutions and their counterparts in Rwanda between 31 August and 01 September 2021, with the objective of learning from Mauritius best practices on safe labour mobility and improving skills to meet the labour market needs in the country.

## Upgrading of the Outpost in Kelivaho



As part of its support to the National Gendarmerie of Madagascar, IOM through the PROSUD project has constructed three buildings for the housing of gendarmes and a latrine in addition to the premises of the Kelivaho outpost. The provisional reception of works took place on 10 August 2021, and soon the buildings will be electrified with the solar panels.



## Monitoring Visits in Menabe



As part of the monitoring of the REAP project, financed by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), IOM visited in September 2021 all six intervention sites in the Menabe region. Accompanied by the Development Directorate of the Menabe region, IOM was able to observe the progress made in the construction of markets and boreholes and make recommendations with the support of engineers from the Menabe region.

This visit to the intervention zones also allowed the IOM to meet with women's committees that are beneficiaries of the REAP project. Thus, it was possible to gather information on their needs, particularly in terms of accelerating income-generating activities, to observe the positive societal changes that leadership and public speaking training have brought about during the project, and to note the interest of the members of the women's committees, originating from both the migrant community and the local population, in improving the mutual aid and group dynamics that these structures offer. Finally, IOM provided the official documents establishing these women's committees as official associations recognized by the State, in order to support the sustainability of their initiatives and their development.

## Exchanges with the Mauritian Diaspora



Building up on the success of previous consultations with the Mauritian diaspora, IOM organized a series of events, including a Diaspora Week, to continue exchanges with the Mauritian diaspora from July to August 2021.

Facilitated by IOM Researchers, and in collaboration with the government of Mauritius, an [online consultation](#) was conducted as part of the development of a national diaspora engagement action plan, supported by IOM through a project funded by the IOM Development Fund. This event was preceded by the presentation of the [Executive Summary](#) and the [Full Report](#) of the pilot mapping and profiling of the Mauritian diaspora conducted in 2020.

A Pilot Youth Diaspora Volunteering project, also funded by the IOM Development Fund, was [launched](#) by the Honourable A. Ganoo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade on the International Youth Day (12 August 2021), through a hybrid meeting with diaspora members attending virtually. IOM also provided capacity building sessions on diaspora engagement to government officials.

Diaspora events were open to the public, advertised and streamed through Facebook, allowing the maximum of diaspora members from across the world to participate and share their reflections.

## Old Home – New Life



Mr. Ahamada Mmadi is a 43-year-old Comorian. Having left for Sudan in 1999 for his studies, he met a young woman from his village with whom he decided to start a family. Opposed to this marriage, his family decided to cut off their support and no longer finance his studies.

Once his studies completed thanks to the financial support of his partner's family, Mr. Ahamada was unemployed for five consecutive years without any resources to support his wife and their three children. Finding himself financially unable to return to the Comoros, and given his irregular situation in Sudan, he heard about IOM through a friend who had benefited from AVRR (Aide au Retour Volontaire à Reintegration). Then he contacted IOM in Sudan for their assistance in processing his travel documents as well as the permit to exit with his whole family.

Back in the Comoros, Ahamada Mmadi's family was received at the airport by IOM Comoros staff, who will then accompany them step by step in setting up their cattle breeding project. This activity will definitely change his destiny by offering him a better quality of life, in his country and with his family.

## Migration Governance Indicators (MGI)



This has been an eventful quarter for countries in the region participating in the MGI process! On 26 August and 20 September, Madagascar and Mauritius held inter-ministerial consultations to discuss the priorities identified to strengthen migration governance. On 29 September, Comoros officially launched its Migration Governance Profile.

## Sustainable Agriculture Forum in Menabe



IOM participated in the Sustainable Agriculture Forum, held in Menabe from 23 to 25 September 2021. A delegation of 7 ministers attended the Forum, with whom IOM exchanged views on the government's needs and objectives in the Menabe region as well as on the REAP project which supports local communities while protecting the environment.

## Launch of the Awareness Campaign

On 16 September 2021, IOM held a ceremony for the official launch of the COVID-19-related measures awareness campaign and the handing over of communication materials to the National Gendarmerie. The ceremony was attended by the Secretary of State for the National Gendarmerie, senior officers of the National Gendarmerie, national partners and other UN agencies.

## Peace Ritual in Iritsoka



As part of the PROSUD project, IOM organized a titiky peace ritual on 17 July 2021 in the administrative zone of Iritsoka fokontany. This peace ritual put an end to the conflict between members of two ethnic groups, the Bara and the Betsilo, in the villages of Benonoka and Iritsoka-Centre.

## Southern Africa Migration Management

As part of the Southern Africa Migration Management (SAMM) project, country dialogues were organized in September and July 2021 in Mauritius and Comoros to develop a roadmap around priority areas identified. A Tripartite Consultation was held in Seychelles in July 2021 to discuss the implementation of Seychelles Labour Migration Action Plan.

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