



IOM International Organization for Migration

# IOM

in the UK

newsletter

London & South East: 21 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RR Tel: 020 7233 0001 Fax: 020 7233 3001  
Scotland: 38 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3DX Tel: 0141 548 8116  
Wales & South West: Park House Business Centre, 10 Park Street, Bristol BS1 5HX Tel 0117 907 4777  
North West: Regus Reception, 5th Floor, Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3PF Tel: 0151 244 5641  
Piccadilly House, 49 Piccadilly, Manchester M1 2AP Tel: 0161 212 1463  
North East: 1st Floor, 100 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4LT Tel: 0113 237 3077  
Midlands: eOffice, Ground Floor, Norfolk House, Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham B5 4LJ Tel: 0121 633 5074



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Freephone: 0800 783 2332

website: [www.iomuk.org](http://www.iomuk.org)

## HAITI: Helping the Victims of the Earthquake



On 7 February 2010, IOM emergency staff and members of the Fraternité Notre Dame distributed plastic sheeting, blankets and jerry cans to more than 2,000 isolated families living in the mountains in Haiti. © IOM 2010 (Photo: Mark Turner)

On 12 January 2010, a massive earthquake - 7.0 on the Richter scale - struck Haiti causing more than 200,000 deaths, hundreds of thousands of injured victims and resulting in more than a million people becoming homeless.

IOM responded very quickly with emergency relief, initially using its stocks of materials in Haiti. A lot more were needed and IOM appealed for funding and donations. It worked (and is still working) with partner aid agencies to come to the rescue of the earthquake victims. *For the latest information, see pages 2-3 and the HQ website: [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)*

### In this issue:

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- further emergency relief in Haiti
- recovering slowly from the disaster
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# IOM's Emergency Relief in Haiti

**IOM and its partners are now racing to deliver shelter materials to the cities of Petit-Goâve and Léogâne, now home to many former Port-au-Prince residents, before the start of the rainy season.**

IOM's partners, including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Handicap International and Oxfam International have started distributing more than 2,000 UNHCR tents, 5,800 blankets donated by the Japanese and US governments, hundreds of boxes of hygiene kits and enough rolls of plastic sheeting donated by USAID to cover the needs of some 8,200 families (41,000 individuals).

On 7 February, US military helicopters delivered plastic sheeting, blankets and jerry cans to more than 2,000 isolated families living in the mountains above the neighbourhood of Petionville. IOM emergency staff and members of the Fraternite Notre Dame distributed the aid.

IOM and its partner agencies working in the area of camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) have now identified 315 spontaneous settlement sites in and around the capital Port-au-Prince, hosting more than 91,000 families (468,000 individuals).

CCCM agencies are working on registration of the displaced, improving shelter and creating drainage and latrines in the settlements, focusing on a group of 15 sites sheltering more than 5,000 displaced people. Efforts are also being made to secure additional land close to heavily congested sites such as Place Boyer, Place St. Pierre and Champs de Mars, where IOM and its partners are planning to distribute aid in the coming days.

Assistance, including the distribution of shelter material, is also being provided to seven organized settlements, including Parc St. Claire, Parc Colofer and Parc de la Fe in the Delmas neighbourhood. Daily camp management is provided by IOM's CCCM partner agencies, including Islamic Relief, the Salvation Army, the IFRC, Haitian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent.

To date, aid agencies have worked with the Haitian government to distribute over 23,000 tarpaulins and 22,000 family-sized tents, with a further 124,000 tarpaulins and 14,000 tents ready for distribution.

The challenge is to provide earthquake survivors with sufficient materials to construct their own transitional shelters, which will need to be sturdy enough to withstand the onset of the hurricane season in June.

IOM's earthquake emergency response in Haiti is currently supported by USD 28.5 million in funding from the USA, UK, Sweden, Korea, Japan, France, Finland and Canada. It has also received funding from the UN Central Emergency Fund (CERF), the Clinton Foundation and private donors, including the Argos Cement Company of Colombia.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

Capital:	Port-au-Prince
Population (2010):	10.2 million
Area:	27,750 sq km
Major Languages:	Creole, French
Currency:	Gourde (HTG)
GDP per Capita PPP (2007):	USD 1,155
HDI Rank (2007):	149 of 182
Remittances (2008):	USD 1,300 million
Net Migration Rate (2005-2010):	-2.9 migrants/1,000 population
Immigrants (2010):	0.3%
Women as a Percentage of Immigrants (2010):	43.2%
Population under 15 (2010):	35.9%
Adult HIV Prevalence (2007):	2.2%

Haiti has been a Member State of IOM since 1995

Source: [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)



# Haiti Recovers Slowly from Devastating Quake

**IOM's Jean-Philippe Chauzy reports from Haiti (9/2/10):**

The dull thud, thud noise of a US military helicopter echoes in the valley where the marooned Fraternité Notre Dame nestles, high-up the scrawny hills of Petionville, a once affluent neighbourhood of the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince.

Some two thousand earthquake affected families have gathered in line and eagerly wait for sheets of plastic, jerry cans and wool blankets.

"Nights are getting colder now that the rainy season is fast approaching," says Sister Marie Christine, who trained as a medical doctor in Nantes, a university town in Western France. "With up to 70 per cent of all houses and dwellings damaged or destroyed, people are in need of shelter and blankets to stay dry and warm."

She adds that a majority of the population suffers for chronic malnourishment and anaemia because of their poor staple diet, which consists mostly of sweet potatoes, peas and maize.

"Although we have received emergency food rations from the World Food Programme, most people are still shocked and vulnerable. Without adequate shelter protection and blankets, we fear an increase in the number of acute respiratory infections, which will affect the very young and the elderly."

The primary health clinic in Fraternité Notre Dame withstood the 12 January quake, as did the school which caters for the educational needs of some 300 children aged 5 to 18. But many nearby stone houses did not.

The Legitimus family lives by the ruins of their collapsed home in an improvised shelter made of salvaged corrugated iron roofing and plastic sheeting recently donated by UNICEF.

Madame Legitimus lives in one cramped room with 9 of her 13 children. Her husband, a part-time builder and four of her children have walked six hours to Petionville to sell vegetables, fruit and look for odd jobs.



IOM distributes non-food items to earthquake victims in Leogane on 22 January. © IOM 2010

The family built their house over several years, gathering and transporting big round stones from neighbouring fields and buying a few expensive bags of cement and four sheets of corrugated iron for roofing in Petionville.

All in all, the family spent countless backbreaking hours and some 50,000 gourdes (USD 1,200) to build the house that now stands in ruins.

"Because cement is so expensive, people tend to mix it with sand and mud," says 36-year-old Montcler Paul, who came back to Fraternité Notre Dame after studying law in Port-au-Prince. "After each rainy season, families patched up weakened walls with a little cement mixed with a few buckets of water and earth. Because people here had never experienced earthquakes, they weren't aware their house would turn into death-traps."

He points out to a few structures that did survive the quake, which are mostly made of local wattle and daub.

Montcler Jean says these constructions were considered a poor person's alternative to stone houses but that the 12 January tragedy has probably changed this misconception.

"People are now scared of stone houses. They know they can kill. For the time being, we will use tarpaulins and sheets of plastic to protect ourselves from the rains. When we rebuild, we will do it differently."

# Extracts from Selected Press Briefing Notes

## Women Migrants in South Africa Suffer Violence Long After 2008 Xenophobic Attacks

In a bid to counter the growing xenophobia in the country, IOM has been working to promote integration, equality and respect for the human rights of migrants, while building the capacity of public services to uphold migrants' constitutional rights. "The fact that xenophobic attacks continue to occur makes it imperative that we continue to work hard because the consequences of such attacks go beyond the actual act of violence," says Bernardo Mariano, IOM's Regional Representative for Southern Africa.

read more at [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

## IOM Appeals for USD 16m to Help Displaced People in Pakistan

The IOM appeal is part of a joint UN Flash Appeal also called Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan (PHRP) 2010.

The appeal includes funding to provide emergency shelter for returning vulnerable families; reconstruction and development of essential community infrastructure affected by military operations; security awareness training for the humanitarian community; mass communications and disaster risk management programming with local government.

read more at [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

## Radio Communications System to Help Zimbabwean Rural Health Centres Combat Cholera

IOM has handed over radio communications equipment to Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Welfare in an effort to improve disease outbreak reporting and response times at rural health centres in remote border areas. The donation, funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), is part of a broader project on Cholera Emergency Surveillance and Response in border areas...

read more at [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

## USAID Funds IOM Return & Resettlement Operations in Northern Sri Lanka

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced US\$3 million in new funding to support IOM's return and resettlement operations targeting some 77,000 internally displaced people in the north of the country.

The assistance will include transport to allow IDPs to return to their home districts; emergency shelter kits to build temporary housing and transitional shelters; water and sanitation facilities; and the provision of emergency health services across the region.

read more at [www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)

**On Thursday 4 February 2010, IOM UK manned a stall at a Jobs Fair hosted by a Somali community organisation, the Ocean Somali Community Association (OSCA), at the York Hall, Bethnal Green, East London.**

Entitled 'Routes to Employment', the fair attracted a large number of Somali nationals in search of work. The Mayor, himself a Somali, visited each stall including the IOM stall which was entirely dedicated to QUESTS-MIDA. IOM UK's Adam Essack was briefly interviewed about QUESTS-MIDA by a Somali TV company.

## What is QUESTS-MIDA?

QUESTS-MIDA stands for *Qualified Expatriate Somali Technical Support Migration for Development in Africa*. It is a joint initiative between UNDP Somalia and IOM. It supports the development of institutions of government by facilitating the transfer of skills, knowledge and experience from qualified Somali expatriates in the diaspora. It seeks to achieve this through short-term, capacity-building assignments in key public institutions in Somaliland.

The project is demand-driven and assignments are matched according to the priorities of public institutions in Somaliland. Vacancies are advertised through the QUESTS-MIDA website, and qualified Somali expatriate professionals can apply for specific vacancies online at:

**<http://www.quests-mida.org>**

**In September 2009 the QUESTS-MIDA website was launched in Nairobi accompanied by press releases in English and Somali.**

Information about the project was widely disseminated among the Somali Diaspora in the UK; the London based Somali *Kasmo* newspaper and *Africa News* broadcast this information widely.



Four vacancies in Somaliland region were advertised between mid-September and mid-December 2009. Shortlisting and selection took place in January 2010. Another 10 vacancies in both Somaliland and Puntland were advertised in mid-December. All the advertised vacancies will cover a wider range of professional areas. **Three applicants will be going to Somaliland soon - one from the UK, one from Canada and one from Scandinavia.**

About 30 meetings with various Somali diaspora groups were conducted in the UK. The outcome of these meetings strongly indicated a positive and enthusiastic reception of QUESTS-MIDA.

## MIDA Great Lake outreach meeting in London

A MIDA Great Lake project outreach meeting was held at Praxis in East London on 12 December 2009. During the opening session, IOM UK COM briefly introduced IOM as well as its activities, both in general and more particularly, in the UK. Then the project coordinator Tamara Keating from IOM Brussels presented the background, previous results and current phase of the project. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session, then more informal discussions.

IOM's initiative to hold the meeting in the UK was welcomed by the 30 diaspora participants. They also expressed the need for more information on the programme in the UK. Some of them offered to circulate the information (website link, brochures) as far as possible within their communities. IOM UK will continue working with IOM Brussels in promoting the MIDA Great Lake project among the three diaspora communities in the UK.

## A relocation cash allowance of £1000 to asylum seekers departing by 31 March 2010

Anyone who applies, or has already applied for a voluntary return, and departs before 31 March 2010 will receive £1000 rather than the normal £500 cash amount at Heathrow airport as part of IOM's Reintegration Assistance designed to contribute towards a sustainable return.

Since 2002, under the VARRP (Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme) IOM has offered Reintegration Assistance to anyone who wishes to return to their home country. Reintegration Assistance is available to asylum seekers at any stage of the asylum process (applying for asylum, been refused asylum or appealing against a refusal) and not to irregular (illegal) migrants.

This is *in addition* to help with obtaining travel documentation, purchasing flight tickets and domestic transportation in this country and the country of return.

The Reintegration Assistance package is designed to assist with business set-ups, vocational training and education. The programme is co-funded by the European Union and the UKBA.

## AVR - Top 10 Countries of Return

2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
Country	AVR Returns	Country	AVR Returns	Country	AVR Returns	Country	AVR Returns	Country	AVR Returns
Iraq	769	Iraq	1725	Afghanistan	385	Brazil	487	Iraq	683
Albania	535	Afghanistan	523	Iraq	385	Iraq	445	Brazil	648
Afghanistan	380	Albania	348	Brazil	340	Afghanistan	350	China	507
Sri Lanka	272	Iran	311	Pakistan	251	Pakistan	306	Afghanistan	467
Iran	224	Sri Lanka	303	Iran	239	China	284	Pakistan	278
Kosovo	178	Brazil	294	Zimbabwe	188	Iran	221	Zimbabwe	224
Brazil	135	Zimbabwe	258	Albania	183	India	188	India	208
Zimbabwe	114	Pakistan	209	Sri Lanka	181	Zimbabwe South	177	Iran	208
Pakistan	94	Kosovo	136	China	161	Africa	128	Bolivia	159
Colombia	63	China	122	India	129	Sri Lanka	124	Nigeria	137
<b>Total</b>	<b>2764</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4229</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2442</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2690</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3519</b>

Since 1999, IOM UK has assisted  
 more than **34,000** people to return voluntarily  
 to some **140** countries

# Assisted Voluntary Return outreach - News from IOM UK's sub-offices

## IOM AT ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

On 30 January, IOM had a stand at an international festival in Aberdeen from where staff were able to discuss and disseminate information on the **Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)** programmes for irregular migrants, asylum seekers, victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors. The festival was organised by Multi-Ethnic Aberdeen Ltd in partnership with the Scottish Parliament to celebrate the cultural diversity of the city.



The freezing weather and snow did not deter people from attending the event, and over 200 people representing communities from Africa, China, India, Pakistan, Poland, Scotland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Turkey enjoyed the festivities. Speakers from the diverse Aberdeen community acknowledged the positive working relationships and the strength of partnership working within the community. The vibrant music and dance performances made the day a very special one indeed.

During the event, IOM was acknowledged for its current work in Haiti by many of the participants.

Many questions about IOM's activities elsewhere and in the UK were also asked including IOM's **AVR programmes** in Middle Eastern countries, the Gateway Protection programme and IOM's global counter-trafficking activities.

IOM has been working successfully with Aberdeen City Council and Multi-Ethnic Aberdeen Ltd to raise its profile throughout Aberdeen and Grampian.

IOM will be following up contacts within the Chinese, Indian, African and student communities after the interest shown by them in our **Assisted Voluntary Return** programmes.

Finn Goddard and Pui Ling Glass from IOM UK's Glasgow office represented IOM.

## QUESTS-MIDA MEETING in CARDIFF

A meeting to discuss this joint IOM/UNDP Somalia project was held in Cardiff on 22 January 2010.

Latif Elhag, from IOM London joined colleagues in the IOM office in Bristol (which covers Wales and the South West) to explain in some detail the objectives of the QUESTS-MIDA initiative.

The meeting was attended by more than 60 people, mostly from the Somali community in Cardiff as well as a number of agencies - *Somaliland Wales, Wales for Africa, Africa Partnership Initiative, Refugee Voice* and John Tauntley Welsh Assembly Head for *Wales For Africa* project.

After explaining what the project is about Latif then mentioned that the current priority areas for QUESTS-MIDA include the following:

- Policy and Legislation Development
- Human Resources Management
- Public Financial Management

The meeting also provided an opportunity to create awareness of IOM-UK's Assisted Voluntary Return programmes and to network with local organisations working with the Somali community in Cardiff.

# IOM Midlands Lunar New Year season

On Sunday 7 February, IOM Midlands joined in the celebration of Lunar New Year at the invitation of the Midlands Vietnamese Refugee Community Association.

IOM's Birmingham office had an information stall which highlighted the option of **Assisted Voluntary Return** for asylum seekers and irregular migrants.

There were the traditional lion dance (*see photo on this page*), national anthems, and an ancestor remembrance ceremony followed by speeches by Mr Thanh Lap Le, the Chairman of the Association and Birmingham Councillor Ayoub Khan.

The rest of the evening gave everyone a chance to meet the vibrant Vietnamese community, enjoy Vietnamese snacks and listen to some classic pop hits sung by local and London artists, accompanied by a live band.



## IOM PUBLICATIONS

IOM carries out ongoing research in many aspects of migration, for example, *development, migration and health, migration and climate change*, etc and produces a very large number of reports. In addition, it publishes Country Profiles and continually issues Press Briefing Notes covering its humanitarian work worldwide. It also publishes a glossy Migration Magazine. The latest edition of Migration Magazine can



be downloaded free at: [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/migration\\_autumn\\_09.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/migration_autumn_09.pdf)

For more information, please contact:

International Organization for Migration  
Publications Unit  
17 route des Morillons  
1211 Geneva  
Switzerland

E-mail: [pubsales@iom.int](mailto:pubsales@iom.int)  
<http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/>

On Tuesday 9 February, IOM Midlands supported the Warwick Chinese Student and Scholars Association New Year Gala. The Association had gathered an impressive pool of talent in traditional Chinese arts as well as modern dance, theatre and fashion.

The evening at the Warwick Arts Centre in Coventry benefited from the sponsorship of the Lord Mayor of Coventry, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Warwick University and a representative of the Chinese Embassy. Over 500 people attended the event and funds were raised for a Chinese charity helping disadvantaged young people wishing to gain an education. Again IOM had an information stall devoted to **Assisted Voluntary Return** programmes.

Over the weekend 14-15 February, IOM shall attend the celebrations marking Chinese New Year with several Chinese community organisations across the region.