



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organizacion Internacional para las Migraciones

IOM DUBLIN *Newsletter*



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Working with the most vulnerable



Photo: IOM London

Deciding to go home can be one of the hardest decisions a person can make.

For many people, the choice to go home is a happy one. It is a choice to return to the family and friends they left behind, or for some, to return to a job and a new life. For others, deciding to return to their country of origin is difficult because they do not know whether they will have the support they need.

IOM often comes into contact with individuals when they are at their most vulnerable: people who have been victims of trafficking, children, young adults, people who have become ill and single parent families. We are delighted to be able to announce three new programmes that are aimed at helping people who find themselves in vulnerable situations.

The first of these is a new pilot programme for **Vulnerable Nigerian Nationals** who are currently living in either Ireland or the Netherlands, and who wish to return to Nigeria. As with our regular programme, assistance will be provided to obtain the necessary documentation to travel, as well as transportation. However, this programme will also provide, when necessary, temporary accommodation, some food and clothing, family tracing and counselling. Before a person leaves, he or she will be given specific

information about the networks where they might find ongoing support, either through existing development resources made available through governmental programmes, or through other services offered by community groups and organisations. As with our regular programme, reintegration assistance will be available to help those people who choose to return to find their feet, and start generating an income for themselves. This programme has been made possible through funding from the European Return fund and the Irish government.

The second programme is a continuation of an existing programme that has been operating in Ireland for the past three years. This programme addresses the needs of **Unaccompanied Minors** who have been in the care of the Health Service Executive. The programme provides for specialized services for UAMs including the gathering of social work assessments, some tracing of the families and carers of unaccompanied minors, home visits and a detailed description of family circumstances, including the

ability and willingness of the family to care for the child. When return is deemed to be in the best interests of the child, both by IOM and its partner agencies, specific procedures are followed to provide the most appropriate assistance for their safe return home and reunion with their families or carers. Families are then visited after the child has been returned on a number of occasions and reintegration assistance is provided.

IOM Dublin has already established an agreement with the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Welfare in Nigeria to enable social workers in Nigeria to conduct family assessments in liaison with our colleagues in IOM Lagos and Abuja. The results from this agreement are already making a real contribution towards assisting this highly vulnerable group.

For the first time, this programme will also offer a service to young adults, aged 18-21, who will benefit from basic reintegration assistance should they decide to return home. This project is co-funded by the European Refugee Fund and the Irish government.



Returned Soldier: Photo: Teresa Neylon, 2003

IOM has also received funding under the European Refugee Fund and the Irish government to launch an information programme named **DORAS**
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(Directory on Return for Asylum Seekers). This programme aims to produce information leaflets to allow people who have been in the asylum process to know their rights and entitlements in their home countries once they have returned. Subjects will include: *Benefits and Entitlements; Healthcare, Education, Accommodation; Employment and Support Groups*. The project will start gathering information on five countries, to include Nigeria.

Evaluations undertaken in Europe has confirmed that information on return plays a key role in preparing potential returnees for their eventual return and can have a considerable impact on his or her capacity to reintegrate in the return country.

All of these programmes are beginning in July 2006 and will continue over the next 18 months. If you would like more information on any one of the programmes, the contact details of IOM Dublin are on the first page of this newsletter.

Reintegration in Africa

Reintegration assistance has been available through various programmes offered by IOM Dublin since 2003. In 2006, reintegration assistance was made available to all asylum seekers or irregular migrants who come from non-EEA countries and are returning to their country of origin. The assistance has, so far, proved very successful, and has allowed returnees to start to make an income for themselves, or to find suitable training. Reintegration assistance is also offered by a number of other IOM Missions in Europe.

On 11th May 2006, IOM London hosted a series of workshops, which were attended by staff from IOM Dublin, called "African Consultation Day". The workshops were organized in cooperation with three agencies- *Africa Recruit, Interims for Development and Skills for Southern Sudan*.

The purpose of the event was to raise the awareness within the African diaspora in Europe of the job opportunities that are available to African nationals who decide to return voluntarily with IOM assistance. Presentations were made on the various training opportunities that exist in Africa, and allowed representatives from various African community groups to gain considerable knowledge

on how reintegration assistance works for voluntary returnees. Partner agencies gave workshops on how to gain the necessary skills to be recruited for employment in various African countries, and improve the standard of living in their home countries.



Photo: IOM London 2006

To date, some 4000 individuals from 60 countries have benefited from reintegration assistance through IOM London.

Counter Trafficking Awareness Campaign

On 5th May 2006, IOM, in conjunction with Crimestoppers and the Department of Justice, equality and Law Reform, launched a public information campaign aimed at raising awareness of sexual exploitation in Ireland.

The poster (right) is available in English, Russian, Romanian, Portuguese and Chinese. It depicts a woman and asks the question "Sex Slave?". It also includes a short "questionnaire" to assist victims of trafficking to identify themselves,

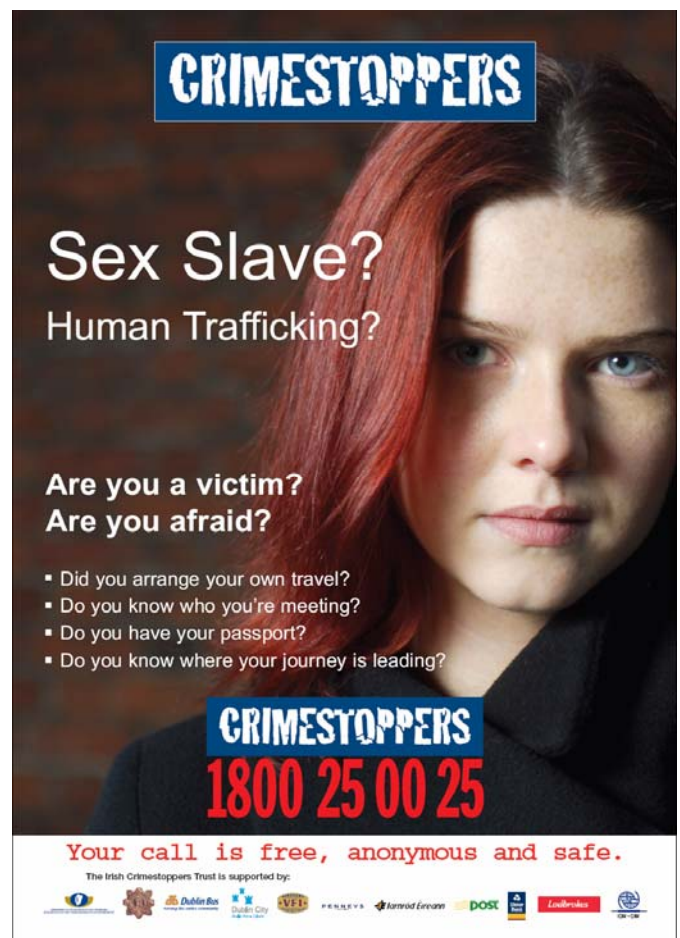
The free telephone number can be used by victims themselves to seek help, or by people who have information about possible cases of trafficking to report the details. All telephone calls are anonymous and callers will be referred to appropriate agencies including counseling support, the police and IOM. The posters have been distributed nationwide.

Over the past four years, IOM has assisted a number of cases in which there have been indications of trafficking to Ireland from countries including Romania, Moldova, Croatia, Brazil, Nigeria, Zambia and DR Congo, some of whom

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reported being moved between Ireland and the United Kingdom,

Diane Grammer, the Chief of Mission of IOM in Ireland, said, "It is important to recognize that people are being trafficked to Ireland. The victims of trafficking are often promised jobs and money, and then forced into prostitution. We hope that through this information campaign, victims of trafficking and the people who may come in contact with them will be made aware that assistance is available."



Crimestoppers poster: 2006

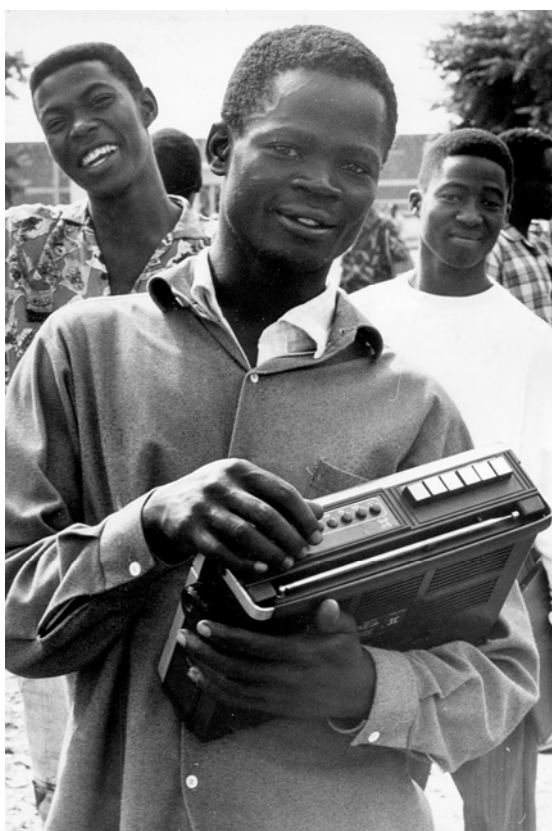
IOM is heavily involved in counter-trafficking activities worldwide and the IOM Mission in Dublin is delighted to welcome this awareness campaign as the first of its kind in Ireland and as part of its overall counter-trafficking work.

IRISH AID AT WORK WITH IOM ZIMBABWE

Persistent and recurrent humanitarian emergencies are one of the main challenges impeding development in Zimbabwe. During the past four years, IOM has been able to address a variety of migration-related issues, including the challenges of internal displacement, irregular migration, and brain-drain. Migration affects all sectors of society but its greatest impact primarily focuses on the poor, who remain with limited resources to cope.

IOM received funding from Irish Aid to provide relief, reintegration and health care to the internally displaced population in Zimbabwe

As the lead agency in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced populations in Zimbabwe, IOM, in collaboration with Irish Aid, has managed to assist over 400,000 individuals, with food, non-food items, livelihood support, water, sanitation, transportation, shelter, and HIV/AIDS and emergency health assistance.



Three young IDPs. Photo: Peter Schatzer

IOM is aiming to strengthen communities copying strategies and promote food security in the acute phase of displacement through the distribution of food and non food items. Emergency shelter will also be provided as necessary.

The programme will also give priority to strengthening the disaster response capacity of communities and institutions. Rural development approaches which aim to strengthen livelihood and income-generating activities in 10 selected sites will be introduced and piloted.

In order to improve health outcomes among groups affected by forced displacements in Zimbabwe, IOM is working to improve access to clean water and sanitation; to establish the management of solid waste disposal using manual collection and land filling; to establish a network of community health volunteers that will work on the surveillance system, refer the cases in need of assistance, and disseminate health information within the communities; to establish mobile outreach services for primary health care assistance, procure and use emergency health kits; and to implement disease surveillance database and early warning systems.

If you would like any further details on any of the stories in this newsletter, or more information on the work of IOM generally, please contact Ryan Nelson in IOM Dublin at (01) 8787900, or e-mail info@iomdublin.org.

IOM Dublin welcomes new staff members

Following a number of departures, IOM Dublin is very pleased to welcome two new staff members.

Carmen Monclús i Gironès joins IOM as the Senior Operations Coordinator and may be known to you through her extensive experience in the refugee and asylum field in Ireland.

Celia Willoughby joins us as the Senior Financial and Administrative Assistant and has a great deal of experience working in the community sector in Ireland.

Both are very welcome.