

The International Organization for Migration - IOM - in Dublin is pleased to launch this first edition of the IOM Dublin E-newsletter. The new E-newsletter will be mailed on a quarterly basis with updates on the IOM Dublin projects, as well as a more global perspective on the work of IOM worldwide. We hope you will find our new format user friendly, accessible and engaging. Links will take you directly to the IOM Dublin website, IOM global websites as well as providing an opportunity to subscribe to the newsletter.

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IOM IN BRIEF

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading international inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

With 127 member states, a further 17 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

IOM MAIN ACTIVITIES

Main areas

Established in 1951 as an intergovernmental organization to resettle European displaced persons, refugees and migrants, IOM now encompasses a variety of migration management activities throughout the world, classified under the following main areas:

- **Migration and Development**
IOM harnesses the development potential of migration for individual migrants and societies through international policy dialogue, policy oriented research and programmes that strengthen the administrative and managerial capacity of governments.

- **Facilitating Migration**
IOM provides policy and technical advice to governments on the regulation of migrant labour and other migratory movements.

- **Regulating Migration**
IOM provides technical assistance and training for governmental migration managers on border management, visa systems, regulating entry and stay, and collecting and using biometric information.

IOM can offer a broad range of programmes to counter trafficking in and smuggling of human beings.

IOM also implements programmes to ease the voluntary return and reintegration of displaced and stranded persons and other migrants.

- **Forced Migration**
IOM assists refugee populations during and after emergencies and facilitates their resettlement. IOM also helps find solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), former combatants, victims of ethnic engineering, and populations in transition or recovery environments.
- **Cross-cutting Activities**
 - Technical cooperation and capacity building
 - Migrants' rights and international migration law
 - Data and research
 - Policy debate and guidance
 - Regional and international cooperation
 - Public information and education
 - Migration health
 - Gender dimension
 - Integration and reintegration

KEY INDICATORS

As of July 2009

- Membership increased from 67 States in 1998 to 127 States in 2009 and continues to grow.
- Total expenditure increased from USD 242.2 million in 1998 and exceeded USD 1 billion in 2008.
- Field locations increased from 119 in 1998 to more than 440 at present.
- Active projects increased from 686 in 1998 to more than 2,030 at present.
- Operational staff increased from approximately 1,100 in 1998 to approximately 6,690 at present, almost entirely in the field.

Structure

IOM's structure is highly decentralised and service-oriented. There are currently 18 Missions with Regional functions (MRFs) serving as resource centres and seven Special Liaison Missions (SLMs).

Projectization

Projectization is used by IOM (similar to Activity-based costing), where staff and office costs associated with implementing a project are charged to projects through a time-allocation concept referred to as projectization.

Total Funding

In 2008, more than 96% of IOM's funding was in the form of voluntary contributions for projects. The remainder represents the administrative budget, funded from MemberState contributions.

IOM Dublin

Since opening in 2001, the IOM Dublin office has been engaged in a number of thematic areas which all

seek to contribute to positive and humane migration. IOM Dublin is active in the following areas: Voluntary Return and Reintegration Project; Family Reunification; Counter Trafficking Activities; Research. Ireland has been an IOM Member State since 2002.

LAUNCH OF NEW AND EXPANDED VARRP INFORMATION MATERIALS

IOM Dublin has fully redesigned and updated all information leaflets and posters on the **Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programmes***.

The leaflets are available in 8 key languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Georgian, Portuguese, Urdu, and Russian. Georgian and Urdu are new languages in which IOM has now made information material available, aiming to meet the needs of a wider range of nationalities. Posters are also available for display in 3 different sizes: A1, A2 and A3. The colours are bright, strong, and positive, and the text is clearly structured in order to concisely follow every step of the return process. There is also a pop-up card with the office contact which may be detached from the leaflet for handy reference.



The new material is currently being circulated nationwide to all relevant organizations and is also available in PDF format on the IOM Dublin website.

If you would like to receive this new material, an order form can be found on the IOM Dublin website, www.iomdublin.org and IOM Dublin will be happy to post out your required material. Organisations already having received material may order additional material at any time through the same channels.

The “Thinking of home?” theme focuses on the fact that any decision to return with IOM is voluntary and the return home will be in line with the key IOM VARRP principles of safety, dignity, and informed choice.

The fact that the service is free and confidential has been also considered an extremely relevant element of the new campaign and highlighted thus.

(*The programme provides assistance to asylum seekers and particularly vulnerable irregular migrants wishing to return to their countries of origin.)

INFORMATION ON RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN PROGRAMME (IRRICO): FOR A SUSTAINABLE RETURN OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS AND REJECTED ASYLUM SEEKERS





The IOM Dublin office is pleased to announce the launch of the IRRICO information project, which aims to gather and consolidate return and reintegration information on countries of origin. This information will assist migrants who may be considering returning home, to access reliable and up to date information on areas such as education, health care, housing, employment possibilities, transportation and social security issues in their home country, amongst others. IRRICO is funded by the EU.

Information is available on 20 countries in this phase of the project. Those countries include:

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, Congo DRC, Georgia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sudan and Ukraine.

IOM believe that reliable and updated information on return and reintegration possibilities, provided at the earliest possible stage of the return process, plays a key role in order to better inform and prepare potential returnees for their possible return and reintegration.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

- 1) When a migrant has a specific question on return and reintegration in one of the countries highlighted above, you can contact IOM Dublin with the question. The migrant may also contact IOM directly should they so wish.
- 2) IOM Dublin will send the information request to the IOM office in the country of origin.
- 3) IOM Dublin will revert directly to the migrant, with the reply, as soon as possible (usually within one week).
- 4) You may also consult and download country information sheets on the above 20 countries, which will be available in several languages from the IRRICO website. There will also be lists of service providers for the countries of origin available on the website: www.iom.int/irrico.

IOM Dublin hosted the most recent IRRICO workshop on 25th and 26th of June 2009. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for project participants from a wide range of countries, to meet together and focus on the debriefing on the current use of database and country sheets, giving colleagues the possibility to share practical experiences and to discuss common standards. Information exchange mechanisms between colleagues in European countries and countries of origin were assessed as well as the guidelines for information gathering and validation for countries of origin.

The IOM/EU Assisted Voluntary Return Consultation combined with the IRRICO II mid term project was held in Brussels in late September 2009. IOM European missions and government officials gathered together to exchange on European practices related to AVR and Reintegration, with a special focus on Return Related Information. This consultation again highlighted the importance of return related information in the pre departure counselling and the reintegration support in the countries of return, and concluded that tools like IRRICO II can be an asset for all involved in AVRR activities.

RETURN AND REINTEGRATION OF QUALIFIED SUDANESE (RQS) PROGRAMME 2009: THE EXPERIENCE OF DR. AHMED ELRADI MB DTHM MRCP (UK) FROM SUDAN

As a part of the RQS programme 2009, Dr. Ahmed Elradi, a Sudanese Doctor living in Ireland, returned to the Wau Teaching Hospital in Southern Sudan, providing respiratory and general medicine training to Wau hospital staff over a 10 day period, 20th-29th July 2009. The training took place in coordination with the Ministry of Health in South Sudan and IOM office in Khartoum.



IOM Dublin interviewed Dr. Ahmed Elradi MB DThM MRCP(UK) on 4th September 2009

How long have you been living here in Dublin?

I've been living here for 8 years.

What is your profession here in Ireland?

I am a Medical Doctor.

How did you get to know about the IOM project?

A friend of mine who works in IOM recently visited Dublin, and he informed me about the programme.

What convinced you to go back to Sudan? What were your expectations?

I thought it was quite necessary to transfer my knowledge back home. When my friend suggested that I could make use of my expertise to help people back home I was convinced. On top of that the programme and the target of the IOM were quite interesting and clear to me and that facilitated taking this decision.

What did you find when you arrived in Sudan?

I went to Southern Sudan, 2 and half hours by plane from Khartoum. The journey and the accommodation were really well organised but when I arrived there I realised that the situation in the hospital was much worse than what I expected and therefore a better assessment would have been useful as well as a more intense contact with local staff prior to the departure. I had to quickly reorganise a survey at the hospital and to revise the initial programme, which was too advanced and not really applicable to the actual situation. It was necessary to tailor it on the base of the real needs of patients, medical and paramedical staff.

Was it easy to integrate in the new working place/environment? How were you received by your peers?

Despite the fact I had never been to the South of Sudan before, I used to work in similar remote areas. Therefore I was conscious of the environment that was awaiting me. On top of that I felt really welcome by the local staff and I received great support from them, as well as from IOM local office, in terms of general arrangement of equipment, facilities, communication and transportation. The government of South of Sudan paid their share by providing local transport and accommodation.

How do you think this project is contributing to the improvement of local capacities?

The main objectives were to set up a lung function lab and properly train the local staff on how to use this valuable diagnostic tool, as well as make staff aware of recent advances in Respiratory medicine. I set specific objectives and I did my best to achieve them by assessing the real needs and establishing priorities, e.g. I noticed a lack of chemical tests & in my final report I thought these should be a priority for future visits. Now WauHospital has a lung function lab accepting patients weekly. A long process is necessary to improve the situation in my country, where people are in great need and every single step is essential and highly appreciated. I participated in improving the clinical context by providing the hospital with new equipment and educational material as well as training staff on how to use these tools, to perform important medical procedures, to follow guidelines in patient management & monitoring . These were among the essential actions in the context I worked in.

Do you feel your presence there as a part of a process?

To be part of a process a continuous monitoring activity is necessary in order to constantly understand the situation, identify the issues and set up adequate actions. I feel it's necessary to periodically distribute forms among the staff in the hospital to be filled and analysed in order to properly implement this monitoring process. These were done in liaison with the hospital administration & monitoring forms stored in PC which was provided as part of the training.

What was your most important achievement during your assignment?

I learnt a lot during the project. I think it is really important to know how to transfer knowledge to people in order to help them. I also felt really satisfied with the results I achieved. I noticed I contributed a lot to the improvement of the local staff skills during my time there. I could see this on their smiling faces at the end.

Would you do it again?

Definitely.

Would you recommend this project to other professionals living in Ireland?

Yes. I think this programme is of great help to its beneficiaries. For me it was a great experience both from a professional and from a human point of view. I really appreciate IOM for the service provided and I feel really grateful even on behalf of the Sudanese people.

LAURA THOMPSON CHACÓN IS THE NEW IOM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

The 29th of June 2009 Ambassador Laura Thompson Chacón of Costa Rica has been appointed Deputy Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).



From left to right: Former IOM Deputy Director General Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye, IOM Deputy Director General-elect Ambassador Laura Thompson Chacón, and IOM Director General Mr. William Lacy Swing

Laura Thompson Chacón brings to IOM a wealth of international experience, most recently as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva. Over the course of her diplomatic career, she has represented Costa Rica to UNESCO, the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

In this capacity, Ambassador Thompson Chacón chaired several bodies on migration and refugee related matters, including the Executive Committee and the Council of the International Organization of Migration, and the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Previously, she has held various posts as Legal Counsel to diverse international organizations in Geneva, including the United Nations Compensation Commission.

She participated as a fellow professor or a panellist in several seminars and roundtables on a wide variety of subjects ranging from migration, human rights, education, environment, to disarmament and compliance with international treaties, throughout the regions of the world.

Mrs Laura Thompson Chacon succeeded Mrs Ndioro Ndiaye, former Deputy Director General since 1999.

