

IOM IN BRIEF

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was founded in Geneva in 1951, and is a United Nations related agency since September 2016. It is the main intergovernmental organization in the field of migration.

IOM'S MISSION

IOM's work is based on the principle that an orderly migration, within the respect of human dignity, benefits both migrants and society.

Specifically, IOM works to:

- Promote economic and social development through migration
- Protect the dignity and well-being of migrants
- Support international solidarity through humanitarian assistance to individuals in need
- Improve understanding of migration issues
- Promote international dialogue on migration
- Provide operational support in the field of migration management



ACTIVITIES AT IOM RWANDA'S COUNTRY OFFICE

IOM Rwanda actively supports the Government of Rwanda in all its migration related efforts; implementing projects focused on **counter trafficking, immigration and border management, migration and health, return and reintegration of Rwandan nationals and refugee resettlement to third countries, labour migration and human development.**

IOM Rwanda provided humanitarian assistance in the months after the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and continued to work in Rwanda until 1999. **The office then re-opened in 2008.**

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

COUNTER TRAFFICKING

IOM Rwanda implements projects which aim at increasing the knowledge and capacities of relevant actors regarding the development and implementation of effective, **evidence-based counter trafficking policies, regulations and legislations and increase efforts to identify trafficked persons, investigate trafficking cases, and prosecute trafficking offenders.** IOM assists the Government of Rwanda and civil society organizations, to strengthen their capacity to respond to all forms of internal and cross border trafficking in persons, including trafficking of children and to identify and protect victims.

IOM Rwanda also works to increase **awareness on Trafficking in Persons, identification and referrals** among the refugee community and staff operating in refugee settings, including the six camps and their surrounding communities.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

Improving border management is a crucial part of Rwanda's country strategy. IOM is working in close collaboration with the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) to provide capacity building, training and technical assistance.

IOM Rwanda also manages a European Union funded project entitled 'Secure Cross-border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region', in partnership with TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) which aims at **strengthening sub-regional economic integration and social cohesion of cross-border communities and at increasing cross-border trade**. Through this comprehensive three-year regional action, IOM and TMEA will support the setting up of a **reliable Integrated Border Management (IBM) structure, cross-border trade, and local community mobility and bilateral dialogue and cooperation**.

MIGRATION AND HEALTH

IOM Rwanda's newly established Migration Health Assessment Center (MHAC) clinic is the leading provider of **health assessment and travel assistance services for migrants and refugees traveling temporarily or permanently to USA, Canada, Australia, UK, Sweden and New Zealand**. The health assessment is conducted by highly trained and experienced Migration Health physicians and nurses based on the protocols defined by the resettlement or admitting countries. The clinic has its own laboratory, X-ray services, vaccine service and pharmacy rooms manned by qualified personnel.

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

IOM Rwanda works with the government to provide **humanitarian assistance to migrants**, particularly those who find themselves in difficult migratory circumstances. These can include individuals whose application for asylum was rejected or withdrawn, stranded migrants, victims of human trafficking, and other vulnerable groups.

From 2010-2015, IOM Rwanda, in close coordination with the government, assisted more than **8,000 Rwandan returnees from neighbouring countries**, especially the Democratic Republic of Congo, through different socioeconomic reintegration projects.

LABOUR MIGRATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

IOM assists the Government of Rwanda to encourage **labour mobility** of migrant workers abroad, engaging **highly skilled Rwandans in the diaspora**, assessing their capacity, interests and motivation to participate in the development process of their country of origin, as well as in **streamlining migration data** in a way that it can be used effectively by policymakers and for the benefit of the country.

Since February 2017, IOM Rwanda, in close collaboration with the Government, is carrying out a **migration profiling exercise** to provide evidence-based migration data for future migration mainstreaming into the government's policies.

OPERATIONS and EMERGENCIES

RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE

IOM Rwanda works to find long-term sustainable solutions for individuals who have spent years living in refugee camps. IOM Rwanda resettles refugees to third countries, mainly to the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. IOM provides beneficiaries with **pre-departure briefings, fitness to travel checks and movement assistance**.

HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

IOM's activities relating to emergency and post-emergency operations assistance focus on four phases: **mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery**. In partnership with ONE UN and the Government, IOM engages in programmes that decrease the community's vulnerability to disasters and climate related threats by **promoting access to off-farm livelihood skills development and livelihood diversification** to broaden income generation options of vulnerable households. These programmes contain trainings of disaster management and vocational trainings.

IOM Rwanda has also implemented several projects to improve the living conditions of vulnerable families by providing **WASH services** (water, sanitation and hygiene) and **shelter assistance**.



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