



International Organization of Migration

IOM Namibia developed a Country Strategy (2013-2017), which aims to focus on the following strategic field:

- 1) Migration Management
- 2) Migration Policy, Research and Advocacy
- 3) Refugee assistance
- 4) Migration and Health
- 5) Migration for Development
- 6) Disaster Risk Management and Internal Displacement

IOM Namibia's country Strategy 2013-2017 articulates the organization's approach in Namibia and provides a framework for future activities – based on IOM's mandate and organizational reality, existing and potential partnership, achievements to date, as well as the Namibia country context. The core principle underlining this strategy includes government ownership and leadership, demand driven and needs-based interventions, partnership building, low-cost implementation, and sustainability.

What we do/did

Disaster risk management

IOM Namibia held 4 Refresher trainings in 2015. The refresher trainings had a participation of 53 trained-trainers (ToT).

The objective of the refresher training was to strengthen the capacity of the national key stakeholders on disaster risk management, in order to deliver the DRM activities as a disaster preparedness measure at all levels.

The Refresher trainings focused on 3 main topics;

1. Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response,
2. Infant Feeding in Emergencies, and
3. Action planning for the Roll out of DRM trainings in regions. The infant Feeding Emergencies (IFE) is a new topic recommended and developed by UNICEF has been included in the Disaster Risk Management training package.

IOM and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for their collaboration in the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management activities in Education Sector.

Migration and Health

After the successful implementation of the SADC Ports Study on Health Vulnerabilities of Mobile Populations and Affected Communities at selected ports of Southern Africa in four countries; namely: Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, and Namibia, as well as the Informal Settlement Health Vulnerability study, the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a dissemination workshop.

The main purpose of the dissemination workshop was to share the findings for each country's SADC Ports Health Vulnerability study conducted in Walvis Bay, as well as the Informal Settlement Health Vulnerability study conducted in the Khomas region with stakeholders. In addition, it was an opportunity for the stakeholders to deliberate on key study findings and to integrate their recommendations into the upcoming national Migration and Health Promotion Strategy.

The workshop encouraged the participants consider and elaborate on the challenges within the sectors which may have an impact on migration and health. MoHSS and IOM are attempting to re-invent the wheel, but rather strengthen and enhance current programmers to respond to migrants and mobile populations' health needs. The workshop concluded on the way forward therefore new interventions will be aligned with existing programs and build partnership with other alliances in order to effectively respond to health challenges faced by sectors.

Study findings will inform the development of the National Migration and Health Promotion Strategy.

IOM's strategic objectives on migration health are derived from the 2008 World Health Assembly Resolution on the Health of Migration. In the framework of the country implementation of the PHAMESA project, IOM will continue its collaboration with Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS). PHAMESA is approaching a new phase and has adopted an opportunity of a more strategic and decentralized approach to resources mobilization and allocation, cognizant of the country specific priorities and strategies. Ministry of Health and Social Services in partnership with IOM are working to finalize the development of the National Migration Health Promotion Strategy.

Migration management

(MP)

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration (MHA) has indicated the need to develop a comprehensive national migration policy. However, at present, there is a severe lack of reliable data available on migration within the country. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) has requested assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to develop a national migration profile (MP) in order to collect, analyze, and report on migration-related data which is to be collected across ministries, departments, and agencies.

With the support of the International Development Fund (IDF) the overall objective is to support evidence-based policy making and promote the mainstreaming of migration into the policymaking process by developing a Migration Policy.

MHAI and IOM are currently working on finalizing the data assessment report which will contribute to the development of the Migration Profile report. Furthermore, MHAI and IOM will conduct two trainings for government officials from different ministries on a) migration data collection, analysis, management, and reporting as well as labour migration management in synergy with IDF regional labour migration project and; b) use and implementation of Migration Profile and way forward. The Migration Profile report is proposed to be finalized, printed and disseminated by January 2016

Migration assistance

(Resettlement)

IOM Namibia has successfully assisted in the resettlement of 212 refugees to the United States of America between January and March 2015. Furthermore, 2 refugees were resettled to France as well as a successful mission in resettling a incapacitated refugee with her family to Denmark.

IOM arranges medical approvals, documentations, transport as well as providing them with necessities (i.e. diapers for babies, blankets, etc.). This is in line with IOM'S mandate to provide an orderly and humane assistance to migrants.

Namibia is a country of origin and destination for children and to a lesser extent, women, trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Victims are at times lured to perform hazardous tasks in urban centers and commercial farms. In Namibia, traffickers exploit Namibian children in agricultural forced labor, cattle herding, and dome domestic service as well as prostitution in Windhoek and Walvis Bay. Mixed migration flows have been witnessed arriving and passing through Namibia over the past many years. These flows consist of complex migratory population movements that include refugees, asylum-seekers, economic migrants and other migrants, as opposed to migratory population movements that consist entirely of one category of migrants.

For 2016, IOM proposes to provide direct assistance for stranded/vulnerable migrants through the voluntary return and reintegration including basic medical, shelter, psychosocial and legal assistance. This proposed initiative aims at being complemented by a national identification, referral and assistance mechanism involving both government and civil society actors.

In 2016, IOM will continue to provide services under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program for Canadian cases. Services include post-arrival assistance for temporary accommodation, material assistance and micro-business.

Labor Migration (IDA)

Labour migration has been increasingly recognized as playing a significant role in the development of the SADC Region. For regional agreements to have effect, it has been widely

noted that governments need to harmonize policies and standards. In this regard, IOM aims to comprehensively support the Government of Republic of Namibia (GRN) to better regulate, manage, and monitor labor migration by identifying gaps in the institutional framework, legislation, data, and policies and identifying proposed solutions in the country.

IOM proposes to implement a national labour migration assessment in Namibia which aims to identify current labor migration policies, practices, structures, legislation, data collection, analysis, reporting, and exchange mechanisms and systems, remittance inflows and their developmental impact on the country, setting up a labour exporting framework based on the results of the recent skills audit survey, and the creation of a labour migration database for candidate migrant workers.

The GRN is increasingly seeking to engage its diaspora in efforts to contribute to the country's development. IOM aims to assist in mobilizing diaspora resources for the development of Namibia. This will be achieved through the mobilization of experts in order to sensitize key institutions on the importance of maintaining a relationship with the diaspora, the fundamental aspects of diaspora and its contribution in the development of Namibia.

Immigration and Border Management

Given Namibia's geographical location massive unforeseen shifts in the dynamics and characters of migration in Southern Africa, in the last few years, have and do pose significant and major challenges in terms of migration management. Bordered by Angola and Zambia to the North and North East, Botswana to the East and South Africa in the South, substantial migration challenges exist due to its geographical location and are exacerbated due to the new trade corridors which pass through the entire industrialized regions within Southern Africa.

In coordination with other UN agencies, IOM Namibia proposes tools under Integrated Border Management (IBM) propose to:

- Training on national, international migration management instruments, protocols and policies.
- Installation and training on Border Management Information Systems (BMIS)
- Migration data analysis and management of aggregated information.
- Sensitization and targeted training on the investigation of trafficking of persons, investigation of migrant smuggling, identification, protection, referral and prosecution of VOT's and offenders.
- Humanitarian Border Management (HBM) with a focus on communicable diseases- Review of GRN strategy .
- Public awareness program focused on VoTs (identification and referral)
- Regional conference on harmonization of responses towards TiP, border management, challenges and proposed way forward.