January - March 2016

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Our Partners

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)/
Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)

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The story of a Venezuelan in Australia

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ARGENTINA

Workshops on “Interculturality, Migration and Communication” at the Florencio Varela and Almirante Brown Offices of the National Directorate of Migration

March 30, 2016

By: Débora Taicz

Last 23, 28 and 29 March, IOM Argentina coordinated three Workshops on Interculturality, Migration and Communication aimed at the staff working in two local Offices of the National Directorate of Migration (NDM) which are situated in the Province of Buenos Aires. The first one was organized in the Municipality of Florencia Varela, whereas the remaining two were held in the Municipality of Almirante Brown. The activities concerned were developed as a follow-up to the Agreement subscribed between IOM Argentina and the government agency, for the implementation of the Project “Promoting the Social Inclusion of Migrants in Argentina” funded by IOM Development Fund.

The workshops were coordinated by Mariana Beheran, Lorena Haupt and Laura Gottero from IOM Argentina, and their purpose was to characterize and work on the junctures whereby migrants and migrant agents interact regarding procedures, queries, and other administrative proceedings at the NDM. To this end, IOM Argentina had previously conducted an assessment -report which compiled the difficulties mentioned by migrants in their intercultural communication with the agency staff. This report was used as reading material before the workshop, as a means of proposing the reflection on and practices about the automatized communication attitudes and ways between both parties.

The participants worked on the so-called basic rules to train intercultural communication: 1) enriching one’s own communicational competence; 2) becoming interested in the other person’s culture; and 3) reflecting upon the contents and practices of one’s own culture. Furthermore, fundamental concepts such as “metacommunication”, “stereotype”, “prejudice”, and “discrimination” were broached as well.

In addition, the coordinators underlined how the relationship between interculturality and bureaucracy poses a challenge for the public administration as a whole, and encouraged the participants to identify and reinforce the intercultural communication skills they apply daily in their jobs.

IOM Argentina Meets with Mr. Claudio Avruj, Secretary of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism

By: Débora Taicz


Avruj remarked that both entities have started to prepare a cooperation agenda, while explaining that “for the Secretariat, the issue of migration is central”. In addition, he mentioned that it is a priority for the current Government to open up the doors of this government agency and listen to the several sectors in the search for solutions.

Gabriela Fernández commended the dialogue between both bodies, whereas she pointed out that it was agreed to work jointly in promoting rights and making migrant communities in Argentina visible; this entails fighting against discrimination, something which is still perceived in the society. One of the subjects mentioned was the situation of migrants in the country and the need to continue working in the promotion of the rights guaranteed by the National Migration Law 25.871 passed in 2003.

Also present at the meeting were the Under-Secretary of Human Rights Promotion, Marisa Frescó, and the National Director of Pluralism and Interculturality, Julio Croci; as well as Mariana Beheran and Lorena Haupt from IOM Argentina.
IOM, UNDP Support Consolidation of Brazil’s Migration and Refugee Policy

February 2, 2016

By: Juliana Quintero

IOM and UNDP have signed an agreement to support the efforts of the Government of Brazil in consolidating its Refugee and Migration Policy, under a project agreed between the Brazilian National Secretariat of Justice and UNDP: Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Social Participation in the Justice Policy [Fortalecimento da Capacidade Institucional e da Participação Social na Política de Justiça].

The agreement was signed yesterday in Brasilia by IOM Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand and UNDP Country Director in Brazil Didier Trebucq, in the presence of Brazilian National Secretary of Justice Beto Ferreira Martins Vasconcelos.

IOM’s activities under the agreement will be financed by the Ministry of Justice and will complement the efforts of the National Secretariat of Justice and the Parliament aimed at modernizing the Law on Migration, providing inputs to the consolidation of the policy in relation to the Draft Law on migration No. 2516 of the Federal Senate of Brazil, currently under discussion in the Special Commission PL 2516/15 of the Chamber of Deputies. IOM provided comments to the bill during a public hearing held in the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia on November 11th.

The agreement provides for a series of studies, workshops and capacity building activities, as well as the creation of a new database and statistics on the profile of migrants and refugees in Brazil. This data platform will allow adequate systematization of information on migration, asylum and statelessness, to produce relevant and strategic statistics for the formulation of public policies and for administrative decision-making on migration and asylum.

“The consolidation of the policy, along with the new legislation expected to be adopted, as well as other measures that the Brazilian government has taken to ensure the rights of migrants and refugees, is one of the key steps for further progress in modernizing migration policy and contributing to the prevention of discrimination and xenophobia,” said Beltrand.

In terms of migration, Brazil has gone from being a country of origin to a country of destination, mainly due to migration flows from the region. Brazil continues to attract significant numbers of migrants, with increases of 122 per cent between 2010 and 2014, according to the Brazilian National Registry of Foreigners (RNE). In particular, the flow of Haitians who are beneficiaries of a humanitarian visa stands out, with 58,000 Haitians registered since 2010.

BOLIVIA

Increasing the Preparation and Resilience at Beni and Mamoré River Basins

In the framework of the project “Increasing the preparation and resilience in prioritized vulnerable indigenous communities and organizations, under a multisectoral approach at the local, municipal, departmental and national level at Beni and Mamoré river basins”, funded by the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), IOM Bolivia has been implementing training and simulation processes in the coordination and management of temporary accommodation (shelters-camps) in the framework of the Sphere project’s minimum standards and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Manual (CCCM) of IOM.

These training processes are carried out in 12 municipalities of Beni and La Paz departments with the participation of several institutional actors and the civil society at the local level.

The process methodology involves aspects such as the need to use temporary accommodation, their characteristics, legal framework for protection, identification of strategies, actions and tools of community engagement, description of the cycle of coordination and management of information in temporary shelters. This training is complemented with simulations through activities oriented to the practical application of the theoretical knowledge provided.
**CHILE**

**Characterization Study of Dominican Republic migrants in Chile**

By: Sebastián Mathews

IOM held a meeting to track the advance of the characterization study of Dominican Republic migrants in Chile. Pablo Mariñez, Dominican Republic Ambassador, Pedro Hernández, Assistant Director-General of International Migration of Directorate-General for Consular Affairs and Migration, Sub-directorate of International Migration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IOM team work in Chile participated in this meeting.

The characterization of Dominican Republic migrants in Chile is being conducted my IOM Chile jointly with the Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Social Work of the University of Chile, supported by the General Directorate of Migration and Consular Affairs, Sub-Directorate of International Migration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dominican Republic Embassy in Chile.

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**IOM Chile Participates in the Second National Day of Immigrants and Health**

By: Sebastián Mathews

Last 14th and 15th of January, IOM participated in the “II National Day of Immigrants and Health” organized by the Recoleta Commune, the Ministry of Health and the North Metropolitan Health Service. The event presented the achievements and good practices derived from the Pilot Plans of Immigration and Health in the regions of Arica-Parinacota, Tarapacá, Iquique, Antofagasta, Copiapó, Valparaíso and the Metropolitan Region.

The activity, coordinated by the Ministry of Health, North Metropolitan Health Service, Recoleta Municipality and IOM Chile, counted on the participation of the Superintendence of Health, Health services, Hospitals, Primary Care Services as well as on the Recoleta Mayor, Daniel Jadue; the Head of the Strategic Department of the Ministry of Health, Cristian Herrera; the Head of the Primary Care Division, Lucia Vergara and representing IOM in Chile, Jorge Sagastume.

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**ECUADOR**

**IOM Trains Ecuadorian Officials in Natural Disaster Preparedness**

February 26, 2016

By: Jimena Almeida

IOM Ecuador, in coordination with the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), held technical workshops in Latacunga, Ecuador, to build national capacity in the event of a mass evacuation due to a natural disaster (MEND). The training was designed to prepare for an eruption of Ecuador’s Cotopaxi volcano.

Building on the MEND methodology, which focuses on preparedness, early warning, evacuation procedures and emergency shelter, this IOM-led initiative, in coordination with the UN Humanitarian Country Team, supported the government in identifying gaps in existing mass evacuation planning and ways to address them.

At nearly 6,000 metres, Cotopaxi is one of Ecuador’s most active volcanoes and is visible from the capital Quito. Photo: Gerard Prins

The training was directed by Albrecht Beck and Susanne Klink – two specialists in Civilian Protection from IOM’s Department of Operations and Emergencies in Geneva, Switzerland.
IOM, USAID Support Rehabilitation Services in Conflict-Affected Colombian Municipalities

**February 19, 2016**

By: Nicolás Cárdenas

IOM and USAID are supporting the Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection to strengthen rehabilitation services in municipalities severely affected by armed conflict in Quibdó, Apartadó, Cartagena, and Popayán.

The project, which targets public institutions that are part of the public health care network, will create a national rehabilitation system that meets the needs of people with disabilities, particularly those who live in remote and difficult to access areas.

The project includes the strengthening of functional rehabilitation services at the institutional level, including the provision of high-tech equipment for electrotherapy, hydrotherapy, mechatrontherapy, physical conditioning, and activity simulation. The project also includes the establishment of community rehabilitation services in the framework of Colombia’s General Health Social Security System (SGSSS).

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**HUMAN INTEREST STORY**

Painting Dreams of a City

Cesar*, 31, is a professional artistic painter; however, not so long ago he found out his hidden passion for art. Born in Caquetá, a department in the East of Colombia where, he says, grew up in a decade of drug trafficking and guerrilla, reason why he never thought of becoming an artist.

He thought, as many of his friends did, that his destiny was attached to that war. Still very young he joined the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), but his present and future started to change when he decided to demobilize and join the national government Reintegration Program.

*Leer la historia completa en www.oim.org.co* [Link to full story](http://www.oim.org.co)

*Name changed to protect identity*

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**IOM Colombia Chief of Mission Alejandro Guidi visits the Colombia and Venezuela border**

**By: Diana Martínez**

As part of actions by the Government of Colombia and under the emergency response strategy created in 2015 to support Colombian migrants returning from Venezuela, Migration Colombia Director Christian Krüger met with IOM Colombia Chief of Mission Alejandro Guidi on the Colombia and Venezuela border and presented him with an assessment of the situation.

During the visit, Director Krüger showed Chief of Mission Guidi the temporary spaces to provide attention to irregular migrants. These spaces are the first step to restituting the rights of victims of trafficking of migrants. Krüger also explained migratory dynamics on the border. “We are moving to construct an orderly border”, said.

IOM has offered transportation and housing solutions and has accompanied the start-up of government responses mechanisms and assistance routes for migrants returned from Venezuela.
Inter-American Course on International Migration in Mar del Plata, Argentina

By: Juliana Quintero

With the participation of representatives from 16 Latin America and Caribbean countries, the 38th Inter-American Course on International Migration was carried out in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The event, organized by IOM, was held between March 17th and 22nd. It brought together government officials working in offices concerned directly with migration issues. It also met experts and academics in the field of migration. To date the program has trained over 800 officials from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Ambassador Rubén Buira, Head of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, IOM Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand and Course Director Jorge Gurrieri.

Ambassador Buira welcomed course participants and thanked IOM for its organization. He also emphasized the commitment of Argentina to protecting the human rights of migrants and stressed the importance given by the Chancellor Susana Malcorra and the new administration to the promotion of multilateralism in international relations as the most effective mechanism to address the challenges that arise.

Beltrand thanked Argentina for hosting the event. “In a very difficult global context for migrants, Latin America and the Caribbean have made important progress in promoting human mobility in the context of regional integration, emphasizing the human rights approach to migration and the modernization of migration laws and institutional frameworks,” he said.

“Outbreaks of xenophobia, discrimination or racism that may arise around the new flows of intra and extra-regional migrants must be avoided,” he added.

He also noted that the inclusion of migration as a crosscutting element of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the construction of indicators for monitoring their implementation is a great opportunity to ensure the observance of the human rights of migrants and make progress in migration governance.

The course features lectures related to the international protection of migrants, legal aspects of migration management, regional processes of integration and current policies, international migration programs, and migration, environment and climate change. Speakers include experts from IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, the Institute of Human Rights Public Policy and the Scalabrini International Migration Network.
The Closing Ceremony of the Inter-American Course on International Migration is held in Casa Rosada every year and counts on the participation of governmental authorities, particularly the Ministry of the Interior and the National Direction of Migrations as well as IOM.

In the photographs, the National Director of Migration in Argentina, Horacio García, congratulates and grants certificates to the course participants.

Course’s testimonies of previous years available at: www.argentina.iom.int/ro

Information Leaflet
Inter-American Course on International Migration
available at: www.argentina.iom.int/ro

Amerigo Incalcaterra
Regional Representative for South America
High Commissioner of the United Nations for the Rights of Migrant Workers

"Regarding migration, authorities must consider what the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families states in the whole migration process both in the preparation for migration, departure and transit and the staying period.

Amerigo Incalcaterra
Regional Representative for South America
High Commissioner of the United Nations for the Rights of Migrant Workers"

"It is a must to have enough conceptual clarity to distinguish the irregular status of migrants from the irregular migrant. What must be fought is the irregular status, not the migrant, which must be the basic premise to diagram any migration policy and enact a law as a tool of the same policy.

Adriana Alfonso
Coordinator of the Program for Migrants, Refugees and Stateless People (PROMIRA)
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina"
IOM presents advances in cooperation at the Specialized Forum of Migration (FEM) of MERCOSUR and Associate States

March 21, 2016
By: Juliana Quintero

In a meeting of the Specialized Forum of Migration (FEM) organized by Uruguay as Pro Tempore Presidency of MERCOSUR this semester, IOM presented the project profiles to be implemented in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR).

The presentation, which took place last Thursday March 17 in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay, included the follow-up of the cooperation proposals agreed by the State Members and Associate States of MERCOSUR with IOM last November 4 in Asunción, Paraguay during the FEM LVII meeting.

The advances are linked to two proposals, the Study on the Evaluation and Impact of the Agreement on Residence of MERCOSUR, emphasizing the conditions of migrants’ access to rights in the countries of residence, and the proposal of strengthening the cooperation mechanisms and the capacity of MERCOSUR countries in their actions dealing with human trafficking.

With respect to the first proposal, IOM made the progress known to shortly start up a field research which will allow evaluating the impact of the Agreement on Residence seven years after its commencement. IOM presented the progress of the second proposal to begin the analysis of the application of MERCOSUR Guidelines to early detect cross border human trafficking situations as well as to hold a regional workshop on the same subject which will include the presentation of the antecedents of the Guidelines, the results of analysis, and the socialization of good practices and experiences of countries.

IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, highlighted the importance of this cooperation, especially because it reflects FEM’s priorities as support to the promotion of migrants’ human rights and the free mobility in the region.

FEM is a space operating in the meetings of Ministries of Interior and Security of MERCOSUR and Associate States with such functions as studying the impact of migration in and out of the region as well as analyzing and developing projects of norms and/or agreements related to migration which regulate the countries of the bloc.

OUR PARTNERS

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations and its headquarters is in Santiago de Chile.

It was founded to contribute to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions directed towards this end and reinforcing economic relations among the countries and with other nations. Later, his work expanded to the Caribbean countries and the objective of promoting social development was incorporated.

The partnership between ECLAC and IOM dates back to 1983 when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

As part of this cooperation, the two organizations recently conducted a study to analyze census data and to know the patterns and trends of international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The study is available at www.argentina.iom.int/ro
**PARAGUAY**

**Funded by the Global Fund, the Government of Paraguay launches a Project to Prevent Reintroduction of Malaria with focus on mobile populations**

April 3, 2016

By: Eduardo Carrillo

IOM Paraguay launched a project as part of the National Strategic Plan for the Certification of the Elimination and Prevention of Re-introduction of Malaria in Paraguay 2015-2019.

The project, financed by the Global Fund, aims to strengthen epidemiological vigilance in health services to avoid the reintroduction of the disease within the country.

The project: “Strengthening the National Strategy for Prevention of Malaria Reintroduction in Paraguay – Certification Process of Malaria Free Country” – was inaugurated at the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Paraguay (MPHSW).

The launch was attended by Minister of Health Dr. Antonio Barrios; Representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Dr. Carlos Castillo, and IOM Paraguay Head of Office Richard Velázquez.

The USD 2,782,936 project will implement activities over the next three years. IOM will be responsible for the administration of the funds in close coordination with the MPHSW. PAHO has offered its permanent technical assistance for the development of the project with national and international experts.

PAHO representative Dr. Castillo said that Paraguay is privileged to initiate the process of certification of malaria elimination. Thanks to the government’s efforts, some 5,000 volunteers will perform all the epidemiological surveillance throughout the country.

IOM Paraguay Head of Office Richard Velázquez highlighted the importance of the project. “Certifying a country free from a disease not only has implications for the public health system, but also contributes to the country’s image at the international level,” he said.

Although there were no native cases of malaria recorded in Paraguay during 2007-2014, over 70 cases of the disease were identified from endemic countries during the period. This project will therefore have a special focus on mobile populations.

**PERU**

**IOM Peru at the Latin American Summit for Prosecutors**

March 28, 2016

By: Inés Calderón

The Latin American Summit for Prosecutors which took place in Lima, Peru on March 28-30 sought to offer a space for dialogue and exchange of experiences between Peruvian prosecutors and their counterparts in the region in order to foster a common commitment in combatting different forms of crime which affect nations of Latin America, such as drug trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, corruption and trafficking in persons, among other.

The Summit was inaugurated by Dr. Pablo Sánchez, Peru’s Attorney General, who noted that countries needed to establish direct communication channels to ensure an effective transfer of evidence among authorities when dealing with investigation of international crimes. The highest authorities responsible for penal action in the region were present at the Summit.

During the inauguration, IOM Peru’s Chief of Mission, José Iván Dávalos explained that “arms and drug trafficking are the most lucrative crimes in the world followed closely by trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants which generate over 32 billion dollars yearly”.

Mr. Dávalos also explained “conflicts and natural disasters put pressure on already vulnerable populations and this is exploited by criminal organizations which prey on peoples’ desperation and dreams. The clearest example now is the migratory crisis in Europe which has generated millions of dollars for traffickers. Latin America isn’t an exception. The search for better opportunities has led thousands of people to leave their communities and often fall prey to traffickers and smugglers, which use technology and social media to capture and exploit these vulnerable people. This increased sophistication generates highly complicated cases which involve a variety of actors, countries and types of crimes”.

“There are no borders for the organized crime and judicial cooperation between Latin American countries must be a priority if we want to prevent and combat these crimes. This is why these spaces for discussion and exchange are so important”, he reiterated.

More information at www.oimperu.org
PERU

IOM Peru joins “Cárcel” Campaign which Warns about Criminalization for Child Sexual Exploitation

January 14, 2016
By: Inés Calderón

The awareness campaign called “Cárcel” (Jail) was launched in the district of Miraflores, Lima, and aims to raise awareness in tourists and national and foreign travelers about the criminalization risks for those persons who sexually exploit children and teenagers.

IOM Peru has joined to the initiative launched by NGO CHS Alternativo and other allies. In this sense, the awareness campaign called “Cárcel” (Jail) has a clear message: the child sexual exploitation is punished with imprisonment.

José Iván Dávalos, Chief of the Mission of IOM in Peru, indicated that, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Lima is one of the main focal points of incidence of sexual exploitation of children and teenagers. “Lima is also the region that registers the second highest number of cases of human trafficking in the country after Madre de Dios”, he added.

In addition, he stated that despite the significant progress of the Peruvian Government in combating sexual exploitation of children and teenagers there are still pending issues that must be addressed. Firstly, raise awareness and provide appropriate training to public servants who are involved in combating the context of population mobility, with particular attention to the crimes of human trafficking. The management is in charge of Casabierta, non-governmental organization of the Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer - with long experience in the care of victims of sexual exploitation - and IOM, at national, regional and international levels provides technical cooperation to its Member States in the prevention and protection of persons in such situations. The project has the support of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J-TIP) of the United States Government.

URUGUAY

Borders in Action Project

March 5, 2016
By: Marcelo Minoletti

Under the “Borders in Action” project was carried out last 2nd to 4th March a technical mission in order to assess situations of social vulnerability border. This mission was conducted in the cities of Melo, Rio Branco and Rivera and counted on the participation of the IOM Uruguay Head of Office Alba Goycochea, representatives of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J-TIP), the Director of Casabierta Sister Sandra Ortiz, in addition to the Coordinator of the project, Ms. Maria Elena Laurnaga.

Borders in Action is a project to prevent vulnerable situations in the context of population mobility, with particular attention to the crimes of human trafficking. The management is in charge of Casabierta, non-governmental organization of the Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer - with long experience in the care of victims of sexual exploitation - and IOM, at national, regional and international levels provides technical cooperation to its Member States in the prevention and protection of persons in such situations. The project has the support of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J-TIP) of the United States Government.

VENEZUELA

“It’s a matter of accents”, the story of a Venezuelan in Australia

When I got there I had many conflicting emotions, fear, hope, illusions, anxiety, dreams, dread and faith.

I always knew that immigrating would be a hard but not an impossible task… leave everything behind and start from scratch. It was a new period where you find out you are able to do many things you thought you’d never do; it was your own challenge.

It was not that easy to fit in. With some ups and downs I could know that Sofía Vergara was super famous in Australia, so I imitated her accent to get in touch with people and made them laugh, this way I started to make my circle of friends little by little.

Read the complete story at soymigrante.org