Argentina: IOM Signs a Framework Agreement with the White Helmets of Argentina in the context of the World Humanitarian Summit

Bolivia: IOM Will Work with MIF and the Bank FIE S.A. to Offer Financial Solutions to Transnational Families

Brazil: Assessment Mission in Brazil for Global UNODC Trafficking and Smuggling Project in Partnership with IOM

Chile: IOM Trains Chilean Officials to Combat Smuggling and Trafficking

Colombia: IOM Celebrates Significant Progress in the Peace Process with the FARC, as the Parties Move Closer to a Final Agreement

Ecuador: IOM’s Regional Director Visits Earthquake Affected Zone and Highlights the Effectiveness of the Government of Ecuador in the Emergency Response

Peru: IOM, SURA Peru Join Forces to Prevent Trafficking in Persons

Uruguay: IOM Participates in the Specialized Forum on Migration Held in Uruguay

Venezuela: IOM Participates in UNES International Seminar on Migration

IOM Member States Endorse Move to Join United Nations

Member States of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), meeting at a Special Council in Geneva on 30th June, decided that IOM should join the United Nations system as a related organization.

IOM Director General William Swing will communicate the decision of IOM Member States to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. It is expected to enter into force, upon signature of the agreement, on 19 September during a UN Summit on Migrants and Refugees, after being submitted to the UN General Assembly for approval.

Also at the Special Council, the People’s Republic of China joined IOM, becoming its 165th member state. Tuvalu and Solomon Islands also joined the Organization.

Read more: www.iom.int

Ecuador Earthquake

IOM’s Response to the earthquake in support of the Government of Ecuador

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the coast of Ecuador on 16 April 2016 killed 660 people and left at least 4,600 people injured. The provinces of Manabi and Esmeraldas were the worst hit. It is estimated that approximately 218,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of this total, approximately 73,000 could be displaced as a result of the partial or total destruction of their homes, according to the Government of Ecuador. The remaining 145,000 are not displaced but require some kind of assistance. IOM, as part of the Humanitarian Country Team, has been supporting the humanitarian response led by the Government, since the beginning of the emergency.

Read more: www.iom.int

IOM and MERCOSUR

IOM, through technical assistance in various forums related to migration, provided support to MERCOSUR, during the semester in which Uruguay has been exercising the Presidency Pro Tempore.

I AM A MIGRANT

Jean Claude’s story a Haitian migrant in Chile: “When migrants get to a new place, there is a change and the big majority contribute from their culture and knowledge”

Read more: Page 10

Our Partners

Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

International Organization made up of the twelve countries of the South American region: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

IOM works hand in hand with UNASUR as part of its commitment to support the South American citizens.
IOM’s Humanitarian Response to the Earthquake in Ecuador

By: Jimena Almeida

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the coast of Ecuador on 16 April 2016 killed 660 people and left at least 4,600 people injured. The provinces of Manabi and Esmeraldas were the worst hit. It is estimated that approximately 218,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of this total, approximately 73,000 could be displaced as a result of the partial or total destruction of their homes, according to the Government of Ecuador. The remaining 145,000 are not displaced but require some kind of assistance. IOM, as part of the Humanitarian Country Team, has supported the Government of Ecuador in the humanitarian response since the beginning of the emergency.

Coordination

IOM is coordinating all of its activities with the Government of Ecuador, specifically with the Coordinating Ministry of Security (MICS), the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), the Ministry of the Interior, the Armed Forces as well as with local authorities, including the Decentralized and Autonomous Governments (GAD). IOM is leading the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) sector at national level, and the Shelter/NFI sector at sub-national level.

In order to improve the response and coordination, IOM has established sub-offices in Manta and Pedernales in the Province of Manabi. These sub-offices implement activities and drive the delivery of assistance to the affected areas in coordination with the central office in Quito.

The Government's Action

The Ministry for the Coordination of Security, led by the Minister César Navas Vera, is the Ministry responsible of coordinating the Ministries of Defense, Interior, Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Justice, Human Rights and Worship, as well as the Ministries of Intelligence, Risk Management and Integrated Security Service 911 ECU.

The MICS is the Ministry that coordinates the response to the earthquake, and whose work has been implemented in an effective and timely manner. IOM has been providing technical assistance to the institutions mentioned as part of its contribution to the humanitarian response.

Funding

IOM made an appeal for USD 9.25 million to provide assistance for earthquake victims. So far, IOM has received funding from the Governments of Canada and Japan, and from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UNCERF).

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was put in place. During its first round, in April, DTM identified the needs and priorities of 18,000 displaced people in 149 sites. A second round was carried out in mid-May, where 20,409 displaced persons were identified in 164 sites (both organized and spontaneous). Finally, during the last week of June, a 3rd round of DTM was held, identifying 20,339 persons (5244 families) in 181 sites.

In addition, the DTM, in coordination with protection partners, has integrated monitoring indicators for protection risks and incidents at site level and produced actionable data to improve security, privacy and dignity in displacement sites.

An Action Plan for the Progressive Resolution of Displacement Situations was developed, which includes return and exit strategies from sites, giving priority to those sites facing the most severe problems and collective centers established in schools.

As cluster leader, IOM has trained over 300 government officials in displacement site management, including 160 Peacekeeping officers and 170 MIES, MICS, MIDENA, Armed Forces and Ministry of Interior officers.
Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

A distribution of 10,000 tarps and 1,000 tool kits will be carried out in rural areas to respond to the needs for emergency shelter that are still to be covered.

In support of the Government, a temporary housing model was designed to allow the most vulnerable families in affected areas to live in dignified conditions. Seven of these models have been built in coordination between IOM, the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior. Three of them are at Diviño Niño shelter, 1 in La Escombrera and one serves as administrative center for Pedernales 1 shelter. Two additional models will be used as safe spaces for women, as part of the women’s community participation and governance program.

Early Recovery

IOM is working to implement debris removal and income-generating activities so that affected families can go back to their land in a temporary housing solution.

To this end, IOM is working hand in hand with various ministries to advise and inform on the Rental Subsidy and Host Families plan. This plan aims to make this self-help strategy more sustainable.

Protection

IOM has provided technical assistance to the Government of Ecuador on protection issues, including site management concepts and approaches, improvement of displacement sites and on the Host Family Strategy.

In support of the Government’s strategy, IOM participated in the drafting and dissemination of a Gender Alert to inform the humanitarian community on priority considerations during the response. This effort to capture and analyze differential needs of the affected populations has drawn strength from data produced by the DTM. IOM has also been working on prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence (GBV) within displacement sites, and to facilitate access of GBV survivors to specialized care.

It has also identified and provided assistance to persons with specific needs and in extreme vulnerable conditions through referrals to specialized partners and/or by providing them and their families with direct assistance. Additionally, IOM is working with the Ministry of Interior on a strategy to prevent trafficking in the affected areas.

In mid-June, IOM carried out an assessment and pilot test of a program aiming at governance and women’s participation in camps. The objective of this pilot was to identify how it can contribute to improve safety conditions for vulnerable groups in camps.

IOM Regional Director Visits Earthquake Affected Zone and Highlights the Effectiveness of the Government of Ecuador in the Emergency Response

During his trip to the earthquake-struck zones on 28 June, Diego Beltrand, IOM’s Regional Director for South America, was able to visit Pedernales, Manabi, where he was greeted by delegates of the Coordinating Ministry for Security (MICS), the Ministry for Social and Economic Inclusion (MIES), Ministry of the Interior and the Armed Forces. Beltrand visited government camps such as Divino Niño and Pedernales 2, where he met with displaced population. He also visited the temporary shelter (T-Shelter) project that IOM has been building together with government institutions and shook hands with the project’s beneficiaries.

In addition, and as part of his trip, Diego Beltrand held a meeting with the delegation of the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NORCAP) and UN agencies at the earthquake zone, so as to learn about the joint efforts all these organizations are making to contribute to the reconstruction.

Once he went back to Quito, Beltrand was also able to meet with high-level government authorities, among them: César Navas, Coordinating Ministry for Security and Fabricio Proaño, Vice Minister for Social and Economic Inclusion.

Beltrand congratulated the Government of Ecuador for the effectiveness of the response to the emergency and the timely support to the displaced population.
ARGENTINA

IOM Signs a Framework Agreement with the White Helmets of Argentina in the context of the World Humanitarian Summit

May 25, 2016
By: Débora Taicz

On 24 May, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a Framework Agreement with the White Helmets Commission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina. The event took place at the World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey. The document was signed by IOM Director General, William Lacy Swing, and Ambassador Carlos Mario Foradori, Vice-Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina.

The White Helmets Commission is the Argentine body in charge of designing and implementing international humanitarian assistance, which carries out its activities by means of a volunteer corps. Under the principles of humanitarianism, impartiality, neutrality and independence, the White Helmets act at the request of the affected State or within the framework of a call for international humanitarian assistance.

The Agreement signed between IOM and the White Helmets states the interest of both agencies in joining efforts to provide assistance to migrants and strengthen initiatives aimed at guaranteeing the unconditional respect of the rights of this population. Under the terms of their respective mandates, both Parties are committed to working closely together and holding consultations on topics of mutual interest.

The joint actions developed by IOM and the White Helmets build on a Deployment Agreement signed in 2012. That strategic alliance on emergencies allowed for the implementation of humanitarian missions in Haiti, South Sudan, and Mozambique, where the main areas of cooperation were logistical support, shelter management, and local community strengthening.

BOLIVIA

IOM will work with MIF and the Bank FIE S.A. to offer financial solutions to transnational families

Source: http://www.fomin.org/

The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), member of the Group Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), recently approved a contribution of US$197,586 for the project “Promoting Savings in Bolivian Transnational Households”, implemented by the Bank FIE S.A. in Bolivia in partnership with IOM Brazil. According to MIF, Bolivia received US$1,164 billion in remittances from migrants in 2014.

Remittances to the country have grown nearly 6% since 2012 highlighting their continuing significance in Bolivia. During the first five months of 2015, the highest proportion of remittances to Bolivia came from Spain (40.7%), the United States (16.0%), and Brazil (9.7%).

This project is part of the MIF Remittances and Savings Program and will benefit 8,000 remittance clients in Bolivia and Brazil who will become users of at least one financial product offered as part of this project or who will be part of trainings in financial education. The greatest impact is expected to occur in the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and La Paz and approximately 60% of the beneficiaries will be women. Indirectly, this project will also benefit 24,000 Bolivians members of households headed by Banco FIE S.A. remittance clients.

Argentina

South American Skilled Migration and Development Seminar in Buenos Aires

IOM and the International Network on Migration and Development (RIMD) organized on 19 and 20 April 2016 a regional seminar to discuss skilled migration and development in South America in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The meeting brought together government representatives from South American countries, international organizations, civil society, academia, representatives of regional integration mechanisms such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and skilled migration and development experts.

The seminar was aim to enhance knowledge of the topic and raise awareness of its importance in the South American region. It was also aim to facilitate cooperation between countries of the region to contribute to the development and implementation of public policies, strategies and programs to capitalize on the potential of skilled migration.

Participants analysed issues including the knowledge economy and talent mobility, as well as the importance of links with skilled diasporas abroad. The analysis was based on the experiences of countries including Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Scotland, Mexico and New Zealand. Leer más: http://argentina.iom.int/ro/
Assessment Mission in Brazil for Global UNODC Trafficking and Smuggling Project in Partnership with IOM

June 8, 2016
By: Matteo Mandrile

During the first days of June, the IOM Regional Office for South America accompanied an assessment mission in Brazil for the UNODC Project “The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants”.

The project is a four-year (2015-2019) joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) being implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The programme forms part of a joint response to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants and it is expected to be delivered in up to 15 strategically selected countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Participating countries in Latin America include Colombia and Brazil.

Assistance to governmental authorities, civil society organizations, trafficking victims and migrants object of smuggling, will be given a special emphasis.

The purpose of the mission to Brazil was to understand the role and capacity of the various actors, the legal system and the mechanisms of protection and assistance for victims of trafficking and migrants in situations of vulnerability so that relevant activities could be proposed. In addition, the mission represented an opportunity to share information on the current implementation of projects, assistance cases and other activities in Brazil, as well as the cooperation at a regional level (in the context of regional events on human trafficking and further studies on migration).

IOM Trains Chilean Officials to Combat Smuggling and Trafficking

April 12, 2016
By: Sebastián Mathews

Two seminars aimed at training government officials in combating human smuggling and trafficking have been organized in Santiago, Chile.

Participants included representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs and the Prosecutorial Service. Speakers included IOM Senior Specialist in Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants Mathieu Luciano.

The first seminar, Smuggling of Migrants, took place at the Center of Justice in Santiago. It was attended by Chilean National Prosecutor Jorge Abbot, Deputy Ministry of Interior Mahmud Aleuy, Director of the National Institute for Human Rights Lorena Fries, and Director of the Jesuit Institute for Migrants Miguel Jaksik.

The second seminar, The Crime of Human Trafficking: Achievements and Challenges, took place at Chile’s Ministry of Interior, as part of an observance of the 5th anniversary of Chile’s classification of human trafficking as a crime.

Luciano pointed to global opportunities and challenges related to the protection of victims, and highlighted the importance of training local authorities, including health workers, in dealing with possible victims. He also emphasized the importance of addressing the issue in terms of supply and demand to create holistic solutions.

Read more: http://chile.iom.int/
IOM Participates in the Specialized Forum on Migration Held in Uruguay

IOM was invited by the Government of Uruguay as MERCOSUR Pro-tempore Presidency to participate in the Specialized Forum on Migration held the 1st and 2nd of June in Montevideo.

During the meeting, IOM’s Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, spoke about the advances in IOM’s study of the Residency Agreement impact.

Alba Goycoechea, IOM Uruguay Head of Office, presented the advances in the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between IOM and FEM which included the Regional Workshop held on May 17 and 18 about the use of the MERCOSUR Guide for the Early Detection of Victims of Human Trafficking at Borders.

IOM Participates in MERCOSUR XXVIII RAADH

Invited by the Government of Uruguay as MERCOSUR Pro-tempore Presidency, IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, participated in the XXVIII MERCOSUR Meeting of High Authorities in Human Rights (RAADH).

In the meeting held the 27th of May in Montevideo, Diego Beltrand made a brief presentation highlighting the predominance of policies focusing on rights in migration matters as well as the MERCOSUR Residency Agreement which allows the free mobility of South American citizens.

He also stated that IOM will support MERCOSUR with studies about the Residency Agreement impact, the situation of the borders and human trafficking matters.

During his presentation, Beltrand warned about the need to know more on border dynamics, prevention of racism, discrimination and xenophobia; to fight the smuggling of migrants, assist vulnerable groups and strengthen the gender perspective in the region.

Regional Workshop on Trafficking in Persons: Reflection on the Application of FEM-MERCOSUR Guide

As requested by the Specialized Forum on Migration (FEM) of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), IOM carried out a Regional Workshop on the use of the FEM-MERCOSUR Guide for the Early Detection of Victims of Human Trafficking at Borders.

FEM requested that IOM organized the workshop during an ordinary meeting in 2015 held in Asunción Paraguay.

The Guide is one of the existing tools to support the daily work of the migration officers to counter trafficking in persons, in addition to the protocols at a national level.

The workshop took place 17 and 18 May in Montevideo, Uruguay and aimed at supporting the efforts of FEM and MERCOSUR against trafficking in persons and other related crimes.

35 representatives of 8 countries (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) were part of this event.

The group of participants included officials of both border control areas and specialists in human trafficking. Some of the suggestions generated in the workshop from the analysis of the Guide are:

- Training border migration officials in the use of the FEM Guide and related topics.
- Developing a FEM-MERCOSUR regional campaign against trafficking in persons adaptable in each country.
- Creating a subgroup on trafficking in persons in the framework of FEM-MERCOSUR.
- Developing a Strategic Plan against trafficking in the framework of FEM-MERCOSUR.

During the FEM Ordinary Session on June 1st and 2nd IOM presented a report on the application of the MERCOSUR Guide for the early detection of cross border human trafficking situations and the future recommendations to strengthen the border officials’ capacities in the effective identification of victims of trafficking in persons and their adequate referral.
The Regional Workshop Establishment of the Mechanism of Articulation for assistance to women victims of international trafficking in MERCOSUR was held on May 8 and 9 under the Pro-Temporé Presidency of Uruguay in coordination with IOM and IPPDH in the framework of the VIII Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities for Women of MERCOSUR.

This was the first meeting of the focal points of MERCOSUR Network of Assistance to Women in Situations of International Trafficking. During the workshop and Operating Protocol was validated and approved.

The workshop was opened by the Director of the National Institute of Women in Uruguay Mariella Mazzotti, IOM’s Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand and the Coordinator of the Project of International Humanitarian Cooperation of the MERCOSUR Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights (IPPDH) Fernanda dos Anjos.

Delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela attended and worked on the Network Operating Protocol later approved by the Ministers and High Authorities for Women of MERCOSUR.

At the request of RMAAM, IOM will continue to provide technical support for the consolidation of the Mechanism of Articulation in order to continue the efforts to improve assistance to women victims of international trafficking in the region.

IOM joined the training team of the Course with social actors on humanitarian assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, carried out by the International School of Public Policy in Human Rights of MERCOSUR IPPDH in Buenos Aires on 11, 12 and 13 May 2016 with the attendance of 15 government representatives and 31 representatives of Civil Society Organizations.

IOM’s Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand participated in the course opening and the IOM session was led by Rosilyne Borland, Regional Specialist in Migrants and Vulnerable Groups’ Rights, who spoke about the theoretical approaches and principles of assistance to victims of trafficking.

As part of the joint work of IOM with UNASUR, the IOM’s Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand met last July 1 in Quito with the Secretary General of UNASUR Ernesto Samper to further consolidate the work supporting South American citizenship and to coordinate the signing of a joint agreement.
IOM’s Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrán Meets with Government Officials of Paraguay and Ratifies Commitment of IOM in the Country

June 30, 2016

By: Lidia Nuñez

IOM’s Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrán, held a series of meetings during his official visit to Asuncion, Paraguay, from 20 to 24 June, 2016.

The work schedule included meetings with government authorities from sectors with whom the IOM works to develop programs and joint projects for coordination and support. The IOM Paraguay Head of Office, Richard Velázquez, accompanied the visits of the Regional Director.

Notable was meeting with the Attorney General Javier Díaz Verón. During which Beltrán congratulated the Prosecutor for the work Paraguay is doing, through the Public Ministry, in the fight against human trafficking.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beltrán met with Ambassador Terumi Matsuo, Vice Minister of the Subcommittee of Administration and Technical Affairs, and discussed issues of the regional migration agenda. In addition, the Regional Director was received by Minister Juan Ignacio Livieres, Director of Consular Affairs and Minister Juan Miguel González Bibolini, Director of Human Rights.

Beltrán also met with the Minister of Women Ana Baiardi. They discussed the importance of continuing to work to ensure the rights of migrant women.

In addition, Beltrán held meetings with the Minister of Internal Affairs, Francisco de Vargas and the President of the Representatives Chamber of Congress, Hugo Velázquez. During the visit to the House, the General Director of Immigration, Jorge Kronaweter also participated in the meeting.

The work for supporting and caring for the people displaced from their homes due to rising rivers, is a fundamental topic in the actions of humanitarian policy for the IOM, as the organization works closely with the institutions responsible on a country level for the assistance to the affected population. In this area, Director Beltrán met with Minister Joaquín Roa, Head of the National Emergency Secretary (SEN), and the Mayor of Asunción, Mario Ferreiro, and part of the community team that deals with the emergency. Also, the Regional Director visited one of the shelters built by SEN for displaced families.

The draft project for the certification of Paraguay as a country free of Malaria, funded by the Global Fund, for which IOM Paraguay is the main administrator of funds, was the reason for a meeting with Antonio Barrios, Minister of Public Health; that also involved officials of the National Malaria Eradication Service (SENEPA) and PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) in Paraguay.

Similarly, Beltrán met with the Ambassador of the United States of America, Leslie Bassett; with Ambassador Alessandro Palmero, from the European Union Mission in Paraguay, and Fernando Cossich, Director in Paraguay of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
IOM Celebrates Significant Progress in the Peace Process with the FARC, as the Parties Move Closer to a Final Agreement

By: Sarah Lynn Harris

Colombia faces an historic moment as it moves ever closer to a final peace agreement to end to the 52-year armed conflict between the government and the country’s largest guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The peace talks, ongoing since late 2012, have produced significant progress in recent months, including an agreement announced on May 15 for the release of children and agreements announced on June 23 for a final, bilateral ceasefire and ‘laying down of arms’.

Once a Final Agreement is signed, the FARC will gather in 23 ‘transitional zones’ throughout the country to progressively hand over their weapons and begin preparations for their reintegration into civilian life. These recent agreements cover some of the thorniest issues on the negotiation agenda and provide hopeful signs that Colombia is progressing towards a lasting peace. However, the parties still need to negotiate some remaining agenda items before a final agreement is signed, including processes for reincorporation of the FARC, the transformation of the group into a political movement, and monitoring and implementation mechanisms.

IOM was specifically named in two agreements announced by the parties in Havana. First, the agreement on the release of children called on IOM to form part of the Technical Committee to design protocols and a comprehensive assistance program and to support and verify the fulfillment of commitments, along with UNICEF and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict. Second, IOM was named in an agreement to implement joint efforts for voluntary substitution of illicit crops in the municipality of Briceno (Antioquia).

The parties in Havana requested support from IOM, along with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Though the precise roles of each agency are still being determined, IOM will likely focus its support on psychosocial assistance for community members, strengthening leadership in communities, providing risk education, and general support for victims.

Currently, IOM is working with the government to prepare for and launch a large-scale reintegration process, along with efforts to prevent new recruitment of children and youth and recidivism among adult ex-combatants.

As part of the Technical Committee on the release of child soldiers, IOM is helping to design the protocols and assistance program, and will support the roll-out of immediate actions to guarantee the rights of released children and provide comprehensive reparations and effective reintegration into their families and communities. IOM is also supporting the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) in the implementation of their peace education and communication strategy, aimed at various audiences such as youth, business leaders and public officials.

The Organization is supporting the High Commission for Post-Conflict to design, roll-out and monitor a Rapid Response Strategy to implement strategic projects during the first 18 months following the signing of a Final Agreement with the FARC. In relation to the humanitarian demining agreement, IOM is supporting the implementation of a pilot initiative in Orejon (Briceno, Antioquia) and Santa Helena (Mesetas, Meta) through provision of logistics, transportation, and community liaison staff, and landmine risk education and psychosocial support for community members. Finally, IOM is also working with the government’s Victims Unit to provide recommendations for the creation of a Special Unit to Search for Disappeared People and other topics called for in the agreements reached in Havana.

I AM A MIGRANT
Jean Claude, a Haitian migrant in Chile: “When migrants get to a new place, there is a change and the big majority contribute from their culture and knowledge”

“I have been living in Chile for eight years. I left Haiti because I was searching another horizon and other opportunities. I was studying and there was political conflict in my country, so I decided to leave.

Why Chile? I did not know much of the country nor of its culture at the start; I just vaguely knew where the country was located and the type of government and politics it had.

Thus, I chose Chile also because some of my friends were already living there, this way, I thought it was safer than moving to another place where I knew nobody neither had I a net.

I remember arriving there in Winter May 28 in 2008, which affected me a lot. But my biggest trouble was the language because Haitians speak French and Creole, which made my integration more difficult. This way, communication was the hardest thing for me, but after a time, I could break down that barrier. I started to study Spanish and overcame the language barrier little by little”.

Read story: soymigrante.org
Regional Director for South America Meets in Quito with the Vice Minister of Human Mobility

By: Jimena Almeida

IOM’s Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand met in Quito with the Vice Minister of Human Mobility Esther Cuesta to discuss issues related to the protection of the rights of people in situation of human mobility, especially Ecuadorian migrants and returnees.

The meeting was held on 30 June and it was attended by Undersecretaries Juan Meriguet and Jose Luis Jacome, and the Vice Minister of Economic and Social Inclusion Fabricio Proaño. In addition, the Regional Director was accompanied by the IOM Ecuador Chief of Mission Damien Thuriaux and Manuel Hoff, IOM Ecuador Head of Programs.

IOM, SURA Perú Join Forces to Prevent Trafficking in Persons

By: Inés Calderón

IOM and the company SURA Peru signed an interinstitutional cooperation agreement that will allow the design and implementation of joint actions aimed at preventing trafficking in persons.

The agreement was signed by the IOM Peru Chief of Mission José Iván Dávalos Saravia, the General Manager of SURA Asset Management Jorge Ramos Raygada, and Representative of SURA Asset Management, Alberto Garcia Haacker.

Prevention activities to be implemented under this agreement will target the schools from different districts of Lima, which are vulnerable to this crime.

The agreement between IOM and SURA Peru will allow the continuation of joint work between both entities. The second half of 2016 will see the second stage of the prevention initiative with the project “A Theater against Trafficking” which consists of the presentation of the play “Lita’s Nightmare” and sensitization sessions to be implemented with students. The play is expected to be presented in 14 schools in Lima while prevention efforts are estimated to reach 3,000 students by the end of this year.

Read more: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-sura-peru-join-forces-prevent-trafficking-persons