

# Migration & Development *Migrant stories*



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IOM International Organization for Migration



# Migration & Development

## *Migrant stories*

### INTRODUCTION

Recognition of the linkages between migration and development is increasing. The positive contribution migrants make to society is visible worldwide but certainly in the Netherlands. Their participation contributes to technological development, economic activities and cultural enrichment.

Many migrants remain strongly connected to their country of origin. They send money back, but also transfer knowledge and experience. Recognition of the role migrants can play in the development of their country of origin also becomes clear in the international discourse about migration and development, such as during the fourth Global Forum on Migration and Development in Mexico. The Dutch migration and development policy that focuses on a global approach of the subject can serve as a positive example.

According to IOM, migrants participating in capacity building projects in their country of origin contribute to a triple win. Their involvement has advantages for themselves, but also for the country of origin and the country of residence.

IOM offers temporary return assignments to migrants who wish to use their professional knowledge and experience for the development of their country of origin. Their cultural ties to the country of origin combined with their knowledge and experience make them excellent agents for development.

The migrants can also play an important role in stimulating and developing partnerships between institutions in the country of origin and their country of residence. Through the experiences and personal stories of participants in this brochure, IOM hopes to contribute positively to the linkages between migration and development.

UPON RETURN  
I FOUND

A **BIG**

DIFFERENCE



Sometimes you want to cry when you see Afghanistan – all the war, war, war; how many people have we lost? Too much has been broken, too much of the country is in decline and undeveloped. Reconstruction is going to take a long time. But what is important now is focusing on the job that needs to be done.

**Name** Abdul Sami Roshangar

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Lawyer and university lecturer

**Place of residence** Hulst

**Country of origin** Afghanistan

**Host institution** University of Herat

The University of Herat, which is my hometown, was established in 2003 but it has also suffered from Afghanistan's 'brain drain'. The teachers who are available are young, inexperienced and overworked, often teaching three or four subjects per semester. With the help of IOM, I was able to return to the university twice as part of the TRQN project to provide training and support.

#### OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

My first visit lasted three months and I arrived while everyone was busy with exams and the faculty were moving into their new building, which was without electricity and water. Still, the teachers were very enthusiastic and we were able to accomplish a lot in this short time. I began with one-on-one work training to find each individual's problem areas before working with everyone as a group. I also sat in on their classes in order to give feedback and to see what I can do to help. And I taught several subjects that the faculty had difficulty teaching.

#### INCREASING ADVANCES

When I returned for the second time, I found a big difference. The teachers had a more manageable workload. The quality of the lectures and materials had greatly improved. Students were learning more and that was reflected in their exam results. I was able to spend time helping develop the curriculum even further as well as holding classes and seminars of my own. A book I had written, *A Study on Afghanistan's Taxation System Alteration*, was essential to the curriculum so I paid for it to be reprinted and gifted all the copies to the university. I am very happy that my book is now used not only by the faculty of law but the faculty of economics as well. The administration was extremely satisfied with our progress and held a farewell ceremony in my honour, during which I was presented with a certificate of appreciation for all of my work.

I hope to have the opportunity to return once more to Herat and finish my job. The TRQN project has been extremely beneficial for the university and my hope is that we can implement long-term development programmes for Afghanistan. That is exactly what the country needs.

WITH A  
BIT OF  
EFFORT  
WE CAN DO  
A LOT



When times are tough in the village of Hawzien, women who are young and poor leave for the city. Their lack of employable skills means they are treated very badly, sometimes ending up as servants but more often forced into prostitution. My original idea was to build a general training centre for the young girls and women of the village to prevent this happening. But then I found out about the honey.

**Name** Alem Desta

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Project manager and policy advisor/Gender mainstreaming

**Place of residence** Diemen

**Country of origin** Ethiopia

**Host institution** Hawzien Women's Association, Hawzien

The women of Hawzien have been farming high-quality honey for generations. At the moment, it is only sold locally and mainly used to make Ethiopian mead. That was when I realized the training centre had to be specific to honey and its production. If the entire process can be upgraded so that standardization, packaging and quantity can be improved, then the women can market their honey throughout the nation and the world. With a little bit of effort, a little bit of money and a little bit of time, we can do a lot.

#### THE BEE'S KNEES

The women of the village are very enthusiastic about the center and cannot wait to get started. They work really, really hard and yet are very poor. Now they have the opportunity to gain what they deserve and sell not only high-quality honey but bees' wax, royal jelly,

candles and Ethiopian mead. The bees themselves are relatively low maintenance, making it easy for them to combine beekeeping with other aspects of their lives, such as house-keeping and childrearing. In addition, this project will also have a positive impact on the environment. Beekeeping does not require a lot of water or land. The bees will not only benefit the indigenous trees, which are close to dying out, but their increased numbers will have a snowball effect and gradually improve the environment throughout the country.

#### BECOMING A REALITY

I am really happy for the opportunity provided by IOM's TRQN project that allowed me to travel to Ethiopia and develop the syllabus. I never thought that I could get this kind of help from anywhere. Now our project is becoming a reality. The training centre, which we have named Queen Bees, is around one-third complete and I am currently in the process of putting the syllabus together. But we are six months ahead of schedule and I hope to start work in January, 2011. People's positive responses have made me even more passionate and energized about this project. I know I am doing something worthwhile.

Educating  
— people —  
about  
their  
▶ HEALTH ◀  
and  
RIGHTS





What is most important about my work is trying making a difference, making sure that people who don't have a voice can be heard. The piece that you write for a scientific journal can go a very long way to making that happen. No one will listen if you just say, "I want to do this, I want to do that." But if you are able to communicate scientifically, you can certainly make that difference.

**Name** Charles Agyemang

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Public health doctor

**Place of residence** Amsterdam

**Country of origin** Ghana

**Host institution** Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi

I specialize in public health and have been working in this field for over ten years. My work is mainly focused on looking at migrant health and chronic disease in Africa, and what can we do to improve the health of these populations.

#### CURRENT KNOWLEDGE

What we know is that the migrant population in Western Europe tends to have poorer health than the general population. When migrants initially move, they are healthy but as time goes on, their health gets worse. This is due to several factors. Migration is stressful and is composed of several challenges. Stresses can come from many sources – discrimination at work, problems with neighbours, poor working conditions and family issues. People change their eating habits when they migrate, as well as their patterns of physical activity, and those too have an impact on people's health. And when people are sick, they often

don't know where to go for help. All of these factors play an important role.

#### POSITIVE PROGRESS

I return to Ghana every year with the help of IOM's MIDA Ghana Health project to teach and collaborate with other health workers and experts. Chronic diseases – diabetes, hypertension and also cardiovascular diseases – are on the rise in Africa, particularly in low- and middle-income areas. Many African countries are in transition and that means people's behaviour and eating patterns and everything are changing. It is very important that we educate people about their health and their rights. I do this by going out into the community, both here and in Ghana, with my colleagues and speaking to people directly. We also give interviews and provide information via African radio.

One of the best things about science is that your results will be read and used. Our work is necessary and needed, and has even had a direct impact on public policy. People in Ghana appreciate what I do, and they like that I come and help. That in return also encourages me to carry on. I think that the most important thing is that I can make a difference in other people's lives; that is absolutely crucial. The rest can wait.

WITH  
**PASSION**  
AND A  
**+ POSITIVE +**  
ATTITUDE  
= WE =  
WILL  
SUCCEED



‘Before the war’ and ‘after the war’.  
Those two phrases came up in every conversation I had.  
The war is mentioned every single time. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, everyone has two lives. There was life before the war. Then there was the war itself: a dark period during which people stopped living. After the war, people began existing again. But the country still lacks its youth. Bosnia and Herzegovina needs support so that young people are able to stay.

**Name** Alma Hamulic  
**Occupation/Area of expertise** Consultant  
economics and marketing  
**Place of residence** Huizen  
**Country of origin** Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Host institution** ‘Our Perspective’  
Foundation, Sarajevo

My first two visits with IOM involved providing consultancy services for two very different organizations: a chain of beauty shops that needed marketing expertise and the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency, a government department focusing on attracting outside investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But it was with my third visit that I really hit my stride.

#### MAKING CONTACT

After a discussion with a Bosnian friend of mine, who has also worked with IOM, we discovered we had both been contacted by young Bosnians throughout the world wanting to do something for their homeland. We decided to set up an NGO called Nasa Perspektiva, meaning ‘our perspective’, that connects the 1.5 million members

of the diaspora with the end goal of contributing to Bosnia and Herzegovina’s development. We’ve only just begun but I’m extremely happy with our progress. We have been in contact with Bosnian groups throughout the world and have received a lot of positive feedback. Our members are busy gathering ideas and laying the foundation for future projects. And IOM has been incredibly supportive, to the point that they have agreed to carry out our very first project in conjunction with us. The project is called the Youth Retention and Employability Program, which will give young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina a chance to work outside of the country, gaining knowledge and expertise that they will then share with others upon their return.

#### ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

The assistance of the TRQN project has been essential and I’m incredibly glad that the organization exists. Their encouragement and co-operation will help us build a Bosnia and Herzegovina where people can live in happiness. I believe that with passion, focus and a positive attitude, we will succeed.

I HAVE  
A SENCE OF  
RESPONSIBILITY!



I always make it clear that I don't make any political statements, I make legal statements. There will not be any meaningful development in a country if little importance is attached to the rule of law. Where there is a rule of law, people will get political, social and economic justice.

**Name** Mohamed Kunowah-Tinu Kiellow

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Human rights lawyer

**Place of residence** Amsterdam

**Country of origin** Sierra Leone

**Host institution** National Farmers Association Sierra Leone, Freetown

After completing my thesis and graduating from law school, I had the opportunity to get a very good job or even start my own practice in the Netherlands. But the TRQN project attracted me as well. So I decided to temporarily go back to Sierra Leone.

#### KNOWING THE LAW

Human rights activists in Sierra Leone are able to recognize a human rights violation but they don't know how to tackle it because they lack the legal knowledge. Sierra Leone's domestic violence laws, for example, are very comprehensive and provide a lot of protection. But if people don't know the origin of these laws or how they can be applied or that they even exist, then there can be no justice and no progress. Much of my work has therefore included organizing legal training for various organizations, with emphasis on the role

of human rights in national and international development.

Human rights are far more intertwined with the security of a nation than people first realize. Food security is an enormous issue in Sierra Leone and one that is directly connected to women's rights. When I worked with National Association of Farmers of Sierra Leone, we made sure that one of the objectives of the association was to achieve gender equality and recognize food security as a basic human right. Women make up the majority of the farmers in the country. If they are educated about their property rights (which are protected under law), they can acquire more land and produce more food, which will be beneficial for both women and development of the country.

#### I CAN HELP

The TRQN project helped me find myself. If I had never participated, I would never have had the courage and the zeal and the enthusiasm to go back to my country. While there's a lot of hard work ahead of me, I now have a sense of responsibility towards a society that really needs my expertise.

— MY —  
— RETURN —  
HAS SHARPENED  
— MY —  
FOCUS



Art has power. It stimulates our senses, inspiring us and broadening our minds. Artistic works need to be shared with all, not discarded in a corner for no one to see. But artists in Bosnia and Herzegovina have a difficult enough time finding any kind of job, let alone one in their chosen field. That's where I can help: combining business and creativity is my specialty.

**Name** Emina Beslagic

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Consultant  
Business arts

**Place of residence** Amsterdam

**Country of origin** Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Host institution** Mediacentar, Sarajevo

I focus on the business side of the art world, such as marketing, event management, and matching artists to projects. My assignments with the TRQN project have allowed me to exercise and expand every aspect of my knowledge and expertise. I was assigned as interim director to Akcija (Agency for Cultural Development), an NGO that focuses on implementing cultural management and policy strategies within the cultural sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among other things, I was tasked with the training of artists in project management. If artists know how to navigate the marketplace, they can become self-employed entrepreneurs and make a living doing what they love.

#### CO-ORDINATING SUCCESS

Using my broad networking skills and connections, I was also able to match many artists and organizations with individuals and groups outside of the country, leading to both increasing funding opportunities and cross-cultural collaboration and co-operation.

The CURE Foundation, a feminist collective of artists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has already worked with Kunstenaars&CO, a Dutch non-profit organization, to run CURE's annual Pitchwize festival. After being contacted by the policy advisor of the International Affairs department in The Hague, I was able to arrange for the donation of fifty computers that were distributed amongst a local school and seven national cultural institutions in Sarajevo. I was also responsible for the official visitation program of the director of the Prince Claus Fund, Els van der Plas, allowing for her to visit various cultural institutions and meet with key figures from Bosnia and Herzegovina's cultural sector. As a result of the director's visit, at least two groups have applied for a grant, and more are likely to follow.

#### THERE'S MORE!

Inspiration is the motor for creativity and I try to bring that inspiration with me for each of my engagements. And working with IOM has allowed me to sharpen my focus and clarify what I want out of life, both personally and professionally. The Netherlands might be my home now but I will continue to give my all for Bosnia and Herzegovina. All of this is only the beginning for me. I still have a lot of work to do.

I BROUGHT  
MY  
**LIFE'S**  
STORIES  
WITH  
ME





When I came to the Netherlands, I brought my life's stories with me and shared them with everyone. I became an open book: all the tears, all the tragedies, and all the beauty of my life was open for all to see. My homeland has its own stories and my goal is to preserve as much of that rich history as I can.

**Name** Abdelmoniem Ibrahim

**Place of residence** Amsterdam

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Audio-visual art handler

**Country of origin** Sudan

**Host institution** College of Music and Drama, Sudan University of Science and Technology, Khartoum

I was a theatre student at the College of Music and Drama in Sudan, and have worked as both an actor and director throughout the years. I moved into the medium of video and since 2002, I have been employed by the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, in their audio-visual department. While I want to continue creating in both video and theatre, the time has come to do so in my native homeland. With the assistance of IOM's TRQN project and the Stedelijk Museum, I was able to return to Sudan and realize my goal: to set up a digital archive unit within the College of Music and Drama.

#### MY PLAN

The college has an enormous archive of photos and analogue materials (namely audio and video tapes). Under this assignment, I started to convert the archive to digital data that will eventually be placed on a central server

so sixteen universities in Sudan will have access to the information.

#### MASSIVE PROJECT

I travelled to Khartoum in January and began to gather the materials and machinery. I also started training teachers and students so they could continue with the conversion process after I left. I worked for twelve hours a day, six days a week, and it was worth it. I am extremely happy with our progress. So far, we have converted 150 hours of tape about theatre and musical history. This is only the beginning, however. The Ministry of Culture and the National Theatre in Sudan also have a photo, audio and video- archive that needs to be sorted and scanned, as well as recordings from Sudan's national television and radio service that still need to be organised. This project is a massive undertaking but we can definitely do it – it's inexpensive and very easy to implement. It will take two to three years to complete but I believe that if we work hard and plan ahead, we can complete all conversions in a year and a half. I want to do this for myself, the College of Music and Drama, the future and Sudan. And I thank IOM because they quickly understood what I wanted to do and how important it is to preserve our stories.

I WOULD  
DEFINITELY  
LIKE TO GO  
BACK  
AGAIN



Fariab was not safe. I had to wear a burka every time I went outside. The guest house in which I stayed was guarded. It wasn't safe to stay with my sister, even though she lived in the same area. I couldn't ride a bike or drive a car to work. Sometimes, it wasn't even safe to drink the water. But I returned to Afghanistan and did my job.

**Name** Zakia Alizada

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Gynaecologist and obstetrician

**Place of residence** Sittard

**Country of origin** Afghanistan

**Host institution** Fariab Provincial Hospital, Maimana

I am a gynaecologist and obstetrician with extensive experience in all aspects of women's health. I grew up and used to live in Fariab in northern Afghanistan. I returned to the north for three months with IOM. They placed me in the Fariab provincial hospital, where I worked for six days a week. Three of those days were dedicated to teaching women how to be midwives. Half of them were illiterate, and the other half were able to read and write. They received lessons in theory and hands-on practical instruction, and they all did quite well. The other three days were spent with first- and second-year doctors.

#### TEACHING THE STUDENTS

The student doctors were concerned about carrying out the many procedures relating to women's health and pregnancy, including

surgery. I guided them through delivering babies, performing curettage and caesarean sections, and applying stitches. I also taught them how to take proper notes on patients, the warning signs of any potential problems with a pregnancy (in both mother and child), and various aspects of childcare. It was very hard work and I had to closely monitor each student's progress every step of the way.

#### WE NEED YOU

I only had one day off a week, which was a Friday. That was when I would go to the village and interact with the women. So many of the women could not read or write, but they are very smart and active. They want to do everything. They want to work and create. They have talent and drive but they simply don't have the resources. When I initially met with IOM, I told them how much I was interested in the TRQN project in Afghanistan and how much the people there needed me. My trip was originally going to last for three months but the head of the hospital said, "We really need you", and IOM kindly allowed me to extend my visit. I would definitely like to go back again if there is an opportunity.

I have  
So much  
more to  
Give



Sierra Leone is emerging from a full-scale conflict that has lasted for a little over ten years. Much expertise was lost. There's a huge need for people to help rebuild so when I heard about the TRQN project for my country, I did not hesitate to sign up. I was fortunate enough to be one of the first few participants to return and help Sierra Leone with building capability.

**Name** William Clarkson

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Business consultant

**Place of residence** Rotterdam

**Country of origin** Sierra Leone

**Host institution** Sierra Leone Ports Authority, Freetown

I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and specialize in logistics and marketing management. I was placed, via TRQN, at the country's main seaport in Freetown, where I was involved in staff training, advising management, advising staff in the field and taking part in meetings. I immediately realized how far behind the seaport was in terms of both regional and global competition. At the time, well over fifty per cent of them were illiterate or semi-literate.

#### BACK TO BASICS

Training, therefore, formed a huge part of my assignment. We went right back to the beginning and I took them through the subjects concerning their job functions, which would help them bridge the gap between regional and global competition. This ultimately involved an exchange:

not only was I responding to their questions, I also had questions of my own. That, for me, is the beauty of the TRQN project because it was just not me going there to give them; they were also giving me something in return.

#### LEARNING AND SHARING

The staff helped shape my ideas as to where Sierra Leone is heading, which allowed me to work out how I could better help my country and, where possible, myself. In addition, they also had their own skills and knowledge that they shared with me. I can definitely say I learned quite a lot from the seaport staff and am still in touch with quite a few of them.

Migrants contribute to the national development of their country of origin in many ways, including the sharing of our knowledge and expertise. I have so much more to offer: I haven't even given them half of what I have. The seaport staff really made me realize that my services were extremely valuable to them and how much I want to engage with them on a more permanent basis. Any time I go back home, I make it a point of duty to go and visit them. As soon as I walk into the port, they all want to know if I've come back to work there. I know that they really appreciate me.

Migrants  
are  
Unique  
people  
with  
**IMMENSE**  
potential



Migrating is much like being born for a second time. Although we come to our new homeland as adults, we have to adapt quickly in order to survive. I have become a fast and pragmatic thinker. And I am persistent, as are many migrants. We have to fight for our very existence and that makes us stronger.

**Name** Marechi Togonidze

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Risk manager and financial expert

**Place of residence** Utrecht

**Country of origin** Georgia

**Host institution** Microfinance organization  
Crystal, Kutaisi

I returned to Georgia with IOM to work with a micro-finance organization. I was only there for three weeks but I worked day and night, making optimum use of every single minute. The enthusiasm of the employees gave me the energy to keep going. They were very accepting and understood me and what I was trying to do. I worked with all the employees, including management, and I reviewed with them the subjects relating to their fields.

#### REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We covered a broad spectrum of topics, including internal strategy, how employees approach their jobs and their future possibilities, how to ascertain whether a client is successfully using the money they borrowed, professional conduct and communication, particularly how to better communicate with clients. At the end, I conducted a company-

wide exam and produced a report with my recommendations, including a plan for the company that extends to 2012.

The positive feedback I received afterwards made all the hard work worthwhile. They said I had brought an extraordinary vision with me that has led to a singular change within the company. Everyone made sure to let me know that my knowledge and expertise were extremely valuable and appreciated.

#### REWARDS AND RESULTS

It's so rewarding to see the results of what I do. Each individual outcome makes me happy and gives me the impetus to continue and move on to the next step. The TRQN project is a remarkable initiative and I have seen for myself what it has done for Georgia. Migrants are unique people with immense potential, partly because they can simultaneously exist within two cultures and therefore become a bridge between two different countries. IOM has successfully utilized that potential and now, migrants can prove to themselves and others that they can contribute to development in their homelands. This discovery is what IOM has given to us and for that, I thank them.

THE DIASPORA  
IS COMING  
TOGETHER  
*now!*





Thanks to a former member of the diaspora, I made the decision to complete my post-graduate training in psychiatry and epidemiology in the UK. I am now a consultant psychiatrist and part-time lecturer at a medical school. While the importance of mental health care is recognised in Ghana, psychiatry is not strongly represented.

**Name** Victor Doku

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Psychiatrist and epidemiologist

**Place of residence** London

**Country of origin** Ghana

**Host institution** Kintampo Rural Health Training School, Kintampo

There are only four working psychiatrists in the entire country. Beyond hospital care, we only have one or two outreach programmes. What we need is a mental health programme that is an integral part of the public health system.

#### IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES

To achieve this goal, two other psychiatrists and I have created a charity called Mental Health Educators in the Diaspora. This is a multi-disciplinary group of diaspora mental health professionals who identify training and teaching opportunities in Ghana. They return temporarily to work with students in various medical institutions, such as medical schools, psychiatric nursing schools and training

colleges. In addition to imparting valuable knowledge, they are also role models for the current generation of students, providing them with new perspectives and outlooks on their chosen field of study.

#### A HEROIC EFFORT

The key to our success in Ghana is getting the diaspora organized. Many professionals, including myself, have returned home and done as much as they could on their own, in what I call 'individual heroic efforts'. Now what is starting to happen is that the diaspora is coming together. Those individual heroic efforts can be sustained and expanded because they are now part of a group. We can start to face the challenges of engaging with our colleagues back home, of engaging with the government and with the health care system itself. But these developments are quite recent and we need to co-ordinate in order to continue to build on our current work and achieve success. And that is why we greatly value the support of the MIDA Ghana Health project in helping us in that direction.

One hand  
doesn't clap,  
but many  
hands do



I always take the opportunity to do some charity work when I return to Sudan. I might not be able to make a major change in a child's life but I can make them smile, even if it's just for an hour. If we can teach our children how to best make use of their resources, giving them quality care and education so they can develop and become self-sufficient, then that smile will last a lifetime.

**Name** Azza Abdelmoneium

**Occupation/Area of expertise** Cultural anthropologist and developmentalist, specializing in children's rights

**Place of residence** Nijmegen

**Country of origin** Sudan

**Host institution** Children's Rights Institute (CRI), Khartoum

With the help of IOM's TRQN project, I was able to work for the Child Rights Institute (CRI) in Sudan, an NGO that advocates for the rights of children. My main role was to assist them in developing a curriculum so that CRI can eventually issue its own diploma in children's rights. Many people need to learn how to work with children on a long-term basis to ensure that their rights are being fulfilled. Adults don't always understand that children have their own identities and their own voices.

#### ESTABLISHING CREDENTIALS

The diploma is designed for anyone working with children, whether it's in the private or public sector. For academics and researchers looking at children's issues, it will provide a good basis for their research. CRI also provides consultancy services and I was able to help them on a project they had undertaken for Save the Children, which was a report on

the early marriage of girls and its impact on education.

#### GOOD WORK

I also worked with CRI to provide training workshops for military personnel. There is a military hospital in Khartoum that is also open to the public. The attendees were mainly medical officers and administrators. We taught them what children's rights were, what to do if a child comes to a hospital, how to communicate with children and incorporate children's right into their projects. They were very enthusiastic and appreciated the workshops, and went on to share what they learned with other hospital employees and government departments throughout Sudan.

We have a saying in Sudan: one hand doesn't clap, but many hands do. There has been some progress on children's rights but we still have a long way to go. So I would like to encourage my colleagues to keep up the good work. As long as we have the will to provide a better future for our children, we will succeed. I would also like to thank IOM for giving me the opportunity to conduct work in this still mostly-overlooked field. It's nice to do something for my home country.

**IOM the Netherlands**

*Migration and  
development projects*

Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development has long been a strategic focus of IOM's work. One of the main priorities set out in the IOM Strategy Document approved by the Organization's Council in 2007 is *"to contribute to the economic and social development of States through research, dialogue, design and implementation of migration-related programmes aimed at maximizing migration's benefits."*

In the Netherlands, IOM implements the following projects under its Migration & Development programme:

#### **TEMPORARY RETURN OF QUALIFIED NATIONALS (TRQN)**

Through the TRQN project IOM contributes to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Sudan. This is realized by facilitating the temporary return of higher educated professionals who originate from one of the mentioned countries and reside in the Netherlands or other EU countries. The project is demand driven and the focus is on capacity building in identified priority sectors. TRQN is linked to the national development strategies of the countries of origin. During the first phase of TRQN (2006-2008) IOM assisted 160 temporary return assignments. The second phase of the project (2008-2011) has already facilitated over 200 temporary return assignments

#### **MIDA GHANA HEALTH III**

Ghana faces a severe brain drain of professional health workers, such as medical doctors and nurses. The consequences of the brain drain are enormous, in particular for the quality of the health care. In 2005 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) started the MIDA Ghana Health Project in close cooperation with the Ghanaian Ministry of Health and the Dutch Embassy in Accra. The objective of the project is to contribute to the development of the health sector in Ghana. This is realized in two ways. On the one hand, Ghanaian and other African migrants living and working in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany and other EU countries can transfer knowledge, skills and experience through temporary assignments in Ghana. On the other hand there is the possibility for health workers from Ghana to come for professional training to the Netherlands or other EU countries. Phase III of the project started in April 2008 and has a four-year duration. The project specifically targets knowledge transfer to hospitals and health training institutes in Ghana.

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### **Migration for the benefit of all**

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental partners.

IOM in the Netherlands assists migrants with voluntary return to their country of origin and sustainable reintegration. IOM also arranges the travel of invited refugees and family members that have received authorization to be reunited with their families in the Netherlands and other European countries. As a third activity, IOM facilitates qualified migrants who reside in the Netherlands to help with the development or reconstruction of their country of origin through temporary return projects.