

IOM MIDA Ghana Health Project
Message to Motec Life-UK Meeting, 1 December 2007

Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development has long been a strategic focus of IOM's work. In an era of unprecedented levels of human mobility, the need to develop a fuller understanding of the linkages between migration and development is urgent, as is the need to act in practical ways to enhance the benefits migration can have for development, and to elaborate sustainable solutions for problematic migration situations.

IOM approaches the linkages between migration and development from the perspective that international migration, if properly managed, can contribute to the growth and prosperity of countries of origin and of destination, as well as benefit migrants themselves. The return and socio-economic reinsertion of skilled and qualified nationals abroad can benefit the national development or rehabilitation and reconstruction processes of developing countries, countries with economy in transition, or recovering from conflict situations.

The MIDA Ghana Health project is part of the IOM Migration for Development in Africa, MIDA, program which tries to engage the African diaspora worldwide in the development of Africa. Besides Ghana, IOM carries out similar MIDA programs in Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

MIDA Ghana Health mobilizes skills, experiences and resources of the Ghanaian diaspora within the European Union for the development of the health sector in Ghana. Through temporary return assignments, health professionals from the Ghanaian diaspora help out hospitals and other health institutions in Ghana in the area of human resources development. The project emphasizes the "Training of Trainers (TOT)" approach. As an additional sustainable element, IOM also facilitates internships in the Netherlands and other EU countries for health personnel from Ghana.

MIDA Ghana Health is carried out by IOM in cooperation with the Ghanaian Ministry of Health and diaspora groups in the EU, such as Motec. The project is supported by the Netherlands embassy in Accra and lasts until December 2007. Based on the good experiences so far- IOM assisted over 60 short term return assignments until now-preparations are currently being made for a follow up project in 2008. As part of this next phase, IOM hopes to continue working with relevant stakeholders in Ghana and with valuable and important diaspora initiatives, such as Motec, in making a long lasting contribution to the development of the Ghana health sector.

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