

SITUATION REPORT

Abaco Starting Up After COVID in June 2020

IOM visited Marsh Harbour, Abaco, one of the first islands that lifted COVID-19 restrictions. The IOM field reports that Abaco remains in a state of disrepair, with many homes lacking sufficient infrastructure to navigate the hurricane season safely. There is a shortage of essential building materials; therefore, many homes are still covered with tarpaulins to prevent water from rain entering. Additionally, there is a significant shortage of affordable rental homes for displaced persons, returnees, and workers hampering the progress of the recovery. The economic impact of Dorian and COVID-19 has been severe, with many families relying on NGOs and international organizations for food, water, and other essential items. Elder Sarone Kennedy, a member of the board for Civil Society Bahamas, was quoted, "The rebuilding process is difficult. Groups of people have come together to ease the burden on families and individuals, but Abaco is far from being the beautiful, serene island it once was." The Bahamas entered its hurricane season on July 1st, 2020, making the need for swift rebuilding solutions critical, and leaving many families and homes vulnerable to any significant weather systems. IOM continues to monitor the situation in Marsh Harbour through on-the-ground personnel.



IOM Protection Officer Loubly Georges meeting with Pastor Charles of "The Pink Church" in Abaco.

IOM launches Re-documentation Programme

On Thursday 25th June 2020 IOM officially launched a re-documentation programme to assist vulnerable migrants with their naturalization process. The programme serves as a pilot that will be closely monitored, allowing IOM to make recommendations for

enhancement of documentation procedures while providing advice to migrants. IOM hopes to assist up to 100 beneficiaries who will be selected by an independent committee. The selection process will be based on the needs and vulnerabilities of beneficiaries. The final report of this programme will detail experiences, lead times, costs of the documentation process, and will make recommendations of the stakeholders about the process.



ANONS

IOM Bahamas ap anonse yon pwogram sipò "Re-dokimantasyon" pou migran ayisyen ki vilnerab ki ap kòmanse oswa ki te deja komanse pwosesis pou regilize estati legal yo nan Bahamas.

Pwogram lan pral sipòte migran ayisyen avèk pwosesis pou yo jwenn pèmi rezidan, pèmi mari ak madanm, pèmi fanmi, natiralizasyon ak sitwayènnte oswa yon pèmi pou abite nan Bahamas. OIM ap la pou bay konsèy teknik, sèvis reprezantasyon, ak yon kontribisyon finansye pou ou kapab re-jwenn dokiman ou dwe genyen tankou ak de nesans, ak maryaj, ak lannwi, sètifikasyon lapòs, medikal, sètifikasyon lekòl ak paspò ki soti nan Bahamas oswa Ayiti.

Pwogram nan ap etidye epi tou kenbe tout enfòmasyon ki genyen pou wè ak tout depans: ak tan chak pwosesis ap pran.

Kalifikasyon (kiyes ki ka aplike)

Nenpòt ayisyen, kit li fèt nan Bahamas, Ayiti, oswa yon lòt kote kapab aplike pou asistans lan. Yon komite seleksyon endepandan ap genyen pou chwazi benefisyè yo pou pwogram nan. Se moun ki pi frajil yo an tèm de laj (tankou ti gramoun yo ak timoun pitit), sitiyasyon famiyal, sitiyasyon sosyo-ekonomik moun ki pap travay ki pa gen okenn ed ekonomik, moun ki gen pwoblèm sante, ki anpilaje, ak moun ki te gèlètè nan siklon Dorian ak maladi COVID-19 la. Aplikasyon yo ap gen pou resewa pa OIM Bahamas anvan 15 jiyè 2020.

Pwosesis aplikasyon an

Pou plis enfòmasyon sou pwogram lan, moun ki entere epi ki kalifye kapab kontakte OIM Bahamas pa imèl: iombahamas@iom.int oswa nan telefòn (242) 322 7334 (8:30 - 4:30).



ANNOUNCEMENT

IOM Bahamas announces a "Re-documentation" Support programme for vulnerable Haitian Migrants who are currently starting or in the process of regularization of their legal status in The Bahamas.

The programme will support Haitian migrants with the process of obtaining a Bahamian residency, spouse permit, belongs permit or a permit to reside by providing technical advice, representation service and a financial contribution to re-obtain required documents like a birth-marriage, death certificate, passport, police required documents like a birth-marriage, death certificate, medical, school certificate etc. from The Bahamas or Haiti.

The program has limited funding and will also study the costs and duration of regularization processes in The Bahamas.

Eligibility

Any Haitian migrant, whether born in The Bahamas, Haiti or elsewhere may apply for assistance. An independent selection committee will select the beneficiaries for the program, prioritizing the most vulnerable in terms of age, family situation, socio-economic situation, health, disabilities, and impact by Dorian/COVID-19. Applications will have to be received by IOM Bahamas before the 15th of July 2020.

Application process

If you know interested and eligible persons please contact IOM Bahamas via email: iombahamas@iom.int or telephone (242) 322 7334 (8:30AM - 4:30PM) to get more information about the program, conditions, and the enrollment process.

IOM Re-Documentation Programme Announcement

IOM and IsraAID Launch #BahamasKind campaign

"Forward, Upward, Onward, Together. We are Bahamas Strong. In the midst of a pandemic, we are Bahamas Kind." These are the opening words of the Bahamas Kind campaign video. #BahamasKind is a social cohesion campaign developed in by IOM and IsraAID with funding from Church World Service. The campaign seeks to foster increased community involvement and anti-xenophobia. In the video, community organizers, social justice advocates, equality, and disability advocates utilize their collective influence in calling for kindness amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In July and August 2020 the campaign will release 5 journalistic interviews with well known Bahamian host, Howard Grant. In the interviews, Howard will discuss in depth the subjects of Humanity, Compassion, Diversity, Empathy and Unity with a wide range of influencers in The Bahamas. Follow Bahamas Kind on Facebook @BahamasKind.



Bahamas Kind Humanity episode closing frame.

IOM donates “Green” Modular Offices to Disaster Reconstruction Authority (DRA)

The Government of The Bahamas is accelerating its post Dorian Recovery programs including the small home repair, emergency shelter repair and infrastructure repairs programs. On the request of the DRA, IOM donated 3 prefabricated modular offices to their Marsh Harbour site to accommodate the program management and to provide the communities easy access to the programs. The prefabricated offices are powered by solar generators and will be connected to potable water tanks.

IOM is pleased to collaborate with the DRA and support the “green” recovery of Abaco and the Wider Bahamas.



Examples of pre-fabricated offices.

IOM begins distribution of Sanitizers, fans, and face cloths

During the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM has been active in assisting government agencies and NGOs with essential translations of COVID-19 information into Haitian Creole. In June, IOM has begun the distribution of 3,000 bottles of hand sanitizer and 1,000 face cloths to the people of The Bahamas. IOM combines the distribution with the distributions of local organizations like Hands for Hunger, The Nazareth Center children’s home, Salvation Army, and Bahamas Harvest Church ensuring that the most vulnerable people will be reached, and “key” protection and hurricane preparedness messages are shared. IOM has also ventured into unregulated communities to support migrants in these communities with distributable items as well, supporting well over 500 hundred individuals with towels, hand fans, and sanitizers. An additional 4000 sanitizers were brought in to facilitate the increased demand of sanitary products.



IOM Sanitary products distributed among communities in Nassau, New Providence.

IDPs in Abaco featured in “Holding on” campaign

The Global IOM “Holding On” campaign showcases IDPs’ that reflect on their most cherished possessions or memories from their (former) home in virtual reality format. “First we was trying to get to the house. From the house, we had to come back to the vehicle and we had to stay there for a while because it was too dangerous to move due to debris flying around” recounts Maurice, a resident of Marsh Harbour, Abaco. Maurice was featured in the campaign providing a heartfelt, emotional description of his family’s fight for survival in the middle of the worst hurricane to hit the island. IOM protection officer, Louby Georges, paid a visit to Maurice’s home, where rebuilding efforts are strenuous but ongoing. The Holding on Campaign can be found at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pINFDuej_us



My name is Maurice. This is my home: blown away.

Maurice, an internally displaced person on the island of Marsh Harbour, Abaco recounts his story of survival during Hurricane Dorian.



IOM Bahamas intern, Nia watching the VR video of the Holding on Campaign.