



A FEW MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2019

In 2019, IOM Dominica continued its work with the Government and project partners to implement projects geared toward addressing some of the issues of migration in Dominica and the wider region. Migration is a complex phenomenon as old as time itself. In 2019, some of the most unprecedented migration crisis arose in the Caribbean and other parts of the world. Migration from Venezuela alone constituted one of the biggest and most rapid flows of vulnerable persons globally.

This year, the number of international migrants worldwide was nearly 272 million, up from 221 million in 2010 and 174 million in 2000. An estimated 12 million of those migrants live in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Dominica, the team worked with the Government to face the impact of recurrent hurricanes by increasing its capacity to shelter Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's).

A total of 19 emergency shelters were repaired in 18 communities; 600 NFI Kits were distributed in 16 emergency shelters (collective centres) and 271 individuals were trained in emergency shelter management and related topics. IOM Dominica has worked closely with the Dominica Youth Business Trust to assist with fostering better engagement of youth entrepreneurs in the development of the island. In 2019, the trust has developed and implemented new initiatives for training and employment support programmes. Training material and curriculum have been modified; mentors have been trained and, in some cases, have been re-trained to deliver the new modules. Meanwhile, several new youth entrepreneurs have been taught how to successfully develop sustainable and resilient business plans.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ESTABLISHING AN EMPLOYMENT RECRUITMENT SERVICE

On 25 November, the Youth Development Division (YDD) through the Youth Skills Training Program and IOM partnered with the Dominica Technical Vocational Education & Training Council (DTVETC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, and the Skills for Youth Employment (SkYE) Project to host the “*National Symposium for Enhancing Skills Development & Economic Competitiveness*”. Through interactive sessions, the event helped to facilitate exchanges with the local labour market to guide development of an employment recruitment service under the YDD, and provide representatives from the Youth Skills Training Programme with the opportunity to identify priority areas of training for the upcoming period. Click [here](#) for more details.

BUSINESS ADVISORY FOR YOUTH

In October, the Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT), with the support of IOM, was able to launch a new service to its clients. The Business Advisory Committee includes four professionals in the areas of marketing, law, record keeping/finance, and business strategy whose services are available weekly DYBT clients. This service is an extension of the DYBT mentorship programme, geared at making coaching and advisory accessible to young entrepreneurs.

IOM AND DYBT AWARD YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FOR INNOVATION AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



A total of \$23,600 was disbursed to DYBT to support its pilot training with the awarding of business grants. At the 15th annual DYBT graduation ceremony on 20 November 2019, 7 of 10 grants were awarded to young entrepreneurs and startup owners who graduated from the 2019 training programmes of the Trust. Awards were based on business plan pitches and innovativeness.

The first prize went to Julie Robin, young female entrepreneur-owner of the start-up agro-processing venture Back-to-Basics. Excited to formally begin her new business, Robin said, “I already have a plan; DYBT helped me to put the plan together and with this money, I can finance the plan. The training was absolutely worth it. I have recommended and will continue to recommend the programme to anyone wishing to start a business. More people need to know about DYBT.” Read more about the award ceremony and training [here](#). Two special awards were also given in December to reward Social Entrepreneurship. These awards went to Vanessa Lissa Winston—President of Dominica Arts and Craft Producers Association (DACPA) and owner of New Beginnings Gifts & Leather, and Dunstan ‘Maggie’ Peters—President of the Dominica Amateur Basketball Association (DABA) and owner and coach of 767 Sports Club.

BUILDING MATERIAL DONATION

IOM donated about \$800,000 worth of building materials to the Ministry of Housing to assist with home repairs particularly in the city of Roseau; the Local Government Division for the rehabilitation of about four emergency shelters; and the Dominica State College to repair the student's activity room which was destroyed during Hurricane Maria in 2017. The St. John's Academy in Portsmouth and the St. Luke's Primary also received materials to assist with construction. The donated materials include treated lumber, coated nails, screws, plywood and corrugated galvanised iron (CGI).

IN THE COMMUNITIES

LOCAL PARTNER'S CREOLE BRUNCH



On 25 October 2019, to celebrate Journée Kwéyòl in Dominica – a day of great cultural significance set aside to promote the creole language, display the traditional wear and local cuisine, IOM hosted a networking brunch at its office for staff and local project partners. At the event representatives from TVET, CREAD, Local Government and others discussed ongoing projects, key issues and future collaboration.

DAIC BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM

IOM joined at least 100 local professionals and organization representatives at an event geared toward strengthening the knowledge of the private sector in key areas related to the mitigation of disaster risk and to enable dialogue and cooperation among local stakeholders and businesses. The Business Sustainability Symposium, was hosted by the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) on 12 December 2019. More about it [here](#).

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT: CLIMATE MIGRATION

The widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017 prompted thousands of Dominicans to leave the country in search of livelihood restoration and other forms of stability. This type of migration is often referred to as climate migration. It defines a type of environmental migration where the change in the environment is due to climate change. Though migration in this context can be associated with the greater vulnerability of affected people it can also be a form of adaptation to environmental stressors, helping to build the resilience of affected individuals and communities. In many ways, climate change is expected to trigger growing population movements within and across borders, as a result of such factors as increasing intensity of extreme weather events, sea-level rise and acceleration of environmental degradation. It is expected that climate change will impact on human mobility, likely leading to a substantial rise in the scale of migration and displacement. IOM strives to ensure adequate assistance to, and protection of people affected by climate change, including people on the move as a result of environmental factors. It also works to ensure that migration is recognized and used as one possible adaptation strategy.

IN THE COMMUNITIES

WORLD MIGRANT'S DAY

In observance of International Migrant's Day (IMD), on 18 December, IOM Dominica, for the first time hosted the Global Migration Film Festival in collaboration with Emerald Movies. The team screened the Film *One Way Ticket*, a short documentary written and directed by Gregoire Gosset and co-produced by IOM. A tale of two friends from the Democratic Republic of Congo who move to the United States with the assistance of IOM and UNHCR after spending 20 years in a refugee camp. Several individuals including representatives from the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce, the Diplomatic corps, the Dominica Youth Business Trust and government agencies attended the event. "We are happy to have hosted this event," IOM Officer-in-Charge Natasha Greaves started. "The festival offered filmmakers from across the world a chance to showcase their skills while offering a unique opportunity to discuss the complex and often neglected issues surrounding migration. In Dominica, the discussions were both fruitful and encouraging."



Lizra Fabien, Executive Director of DAIC at the Migration Film Festival—Roseau, Dominica
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UPCOMING PROJECTS

With support from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), in November, IOM launched a year-long project entitled *Western Hemisphere Regional Migration Capacity Building Program*. The aim is to strengthen capacities and inter-institutional coordination for migration crisis and emergency preparation, management and recuperation, for the protection of migrants in emergency contexts.



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