

IOM holds meeting on mainstreaming youth issues into post-crisis recovery

Geneva—12 December An international meeting was held from December 10 – 12 to re-think the post-conflict recovery paradigm in an attempt to make peace more sustainable. The meeting focused specifically on the needs, roles, and potentials of youth in post-conflict recovery.

The ILO was invited to participate in the discussions, and an official intervened in the session on the situations and needs of youth in post-conflict societies. This was an opportunity to draw attention to the importance of employment and labour issues for youth living in conflict zones. Much interest was raised on the role that ILO plays for peacebuilding through local economic recovery, social dialogue, and capacity-building initiatives.

The international meeting entitled “Youth as a key to sustainable post-conflict recovery” was the second edition of the series *Healing the War*. This series, which was initiated in 2006, examines the psychological perspectives and experiences in conflict-torn areas. The initiative was organized by the Psychological and Cultural Integration Unit of the International Organization for Migration with the support of Fondation Moncalme and the Italian Development Cooperation.

The objective of *Healing the War* is to promote dialogue on person-centred approaches to post-conflict interventions. Through the integration of psychosocial practices and more holistic approaches, the cycles of violence in post-conflict countries can be broken.

The meeting was organized in two sessions. First, a two-day session uniting experts behind closed doors to discuss the following three themes: youth in post-conflict societies, holistic approaches and possible responses, and intervention of external parties and local actors. The second session discussed the outcomes of the three topics in a public conference. The results were shared through a roundtable of representatives from key, Geneva-based international organizations, academic intuitions, NGOs, and students. The broader public also participated in the dialogue.