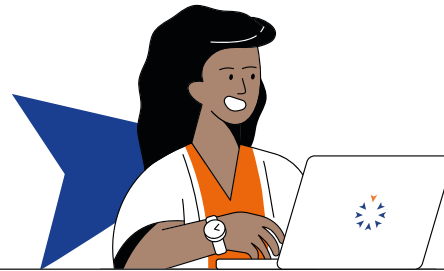


The long haul Design Challenge

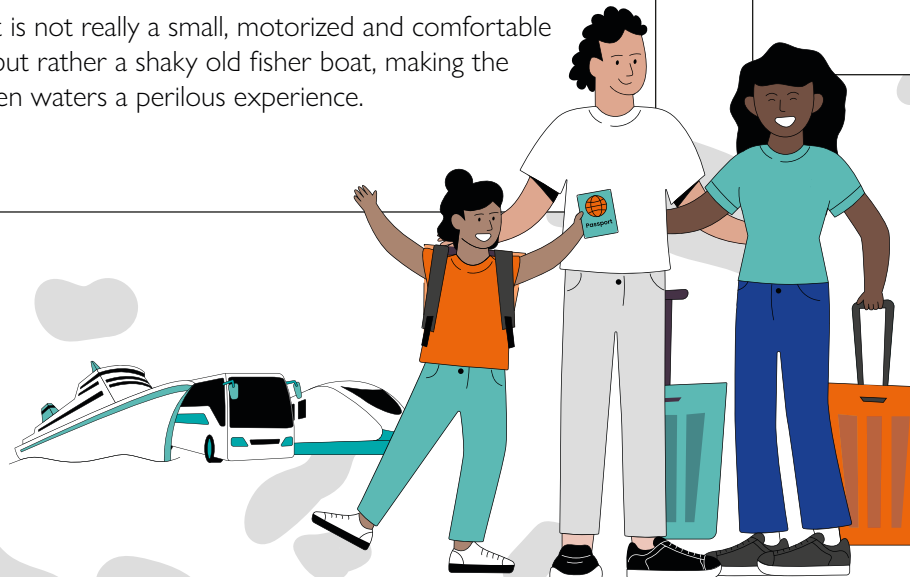


Recently, IOM discovered an irregular migration scheme where migrants from a West African country enter the United States through traveling by flight to the Bahamas, and from there over sea to Florida.

Smugglers back home tell them that the trip is completely legal because they travel with their own passport, visa free, and they can travel the longest haul by flight, followed by a boat trip. The smugglers also facilitate the establishment of passports for their clients, at an extra cost.

The smuggler's account of the story is only partially true, though. Nationals from country X can indeed travel without a visa to their first destination in the Bahamas. But, from there, the migrants will be told to throw away all identity documents, including their newly acquired passports, and to apply for asylum once arrived in the States, claiming they are Haitians.

The trip on the boat is not really a small, motorized and comfortable vessel as promised, but rather a shaky old fisher boat, making the 12 hours trip on open waters a perilous experience.



IOM did a study in some of the communities of origin of the migrants who embarked on this journey before. The SBC researcher concluded that:

- Lots of young people in these communities do not have a national ID or even a birth certificate
- Most people in the communities give little importance to legal identity, and say they do not understand why you would need documents, unless to vote
- The community has a parallel local administration system delivering informal proof of identity, which is enough to access local services like elementary and secondary schools
- Representatives of this local administrative system do not encourage young people to obtain legal ID or passports, as these would have to go through lengthy request at the capital level
- Young migrants often leave on this journey right after ending secondary school, in search for better opportunities in the US
- The majority of those who left truly believed that they would be able to reside legally in the US
- The argument of taking a flight seems to be enough proof of this, and they are not aware that they need additional travel documentation to legally reside on other countries

Challenge: IOM has been asked by the government to design an intervention aiming at reducing irregular migration, and to better prepare nationals for safe, legal and successful migration.

Design question: How might we ...



Return is not easy

Design Challenge



For the last five years, IOM has been running major return and reintegration operations in Harmonia. Known for its rich cultural tapestry, diverse landscapes, and a history of significant migration patterns, Harmonia has always known harmonious coexistence among various communities within the country.

Yet, many returnees feel that in recent years, communities started to develop a stigma against them. Coming back into their communities, they are often mocked, distrusted, and treated differently. Some returnees already struggled with mental health issues due to the negative experiences they encountered on their journey. The lack of support by their friends and family makes them feel even more down.

At the same time, many young men and women from the community still want to leave Harmonia, believing that they will succeed in their migration dreams, and that those who returned were simply not strong enough.



IOM asked a SBC researcher to look into this potential issue of discrimination against returnees and this is what they reported back:

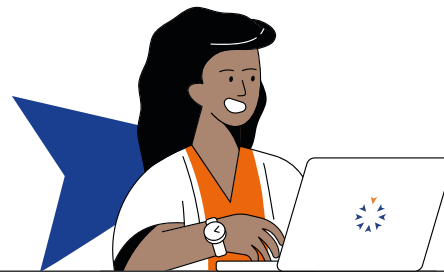
- They believe that those who are abroad and sending money home were more successful, and those who returned just did not try hard enough
- Mental health is considered as something that is invented by white people who can afford psychiatrists, in the community, feeling good equals being part of the family
- Many believe the returnees bring shame upon their families because they borrowed money and came back empty handed.
- Return with IOM's help is considered as a failure that should be corrected
- Some of the community elders feel that reintegration assistance only benefits the returnees and not the community

Challenge: Can you come up with an activity that promotes safe migration, and helps returnees with their reintegration at the same time?

Design question: How might we ...



Living together Design Challenge



Muhajira is a country that due to its location is a transit point for migration, particularly to Europe. Muhajira has diverse landscapes, from coastal regions to deserts, and a complex social and economic fabric shaped by its strategic geographical location as a gateway between Africa and Europe.

Recently, Muhajira is leading high-level negotiations with several European countries to abolish visa procedures for its own nationals, enabling them to travel and work in Europe without the many restrictions they faced before. This is a great accomplishment, since for decades, Muhajira nationals had to travel and reside irregularly in Europe.

At the same time, Muhajira receives historically high numbers of migrants and refugees from their southern neighbors, countries that are poorer and are facing internal conflict. These individuals not only seek to reach Europe by passing through Muhajira irregularly, many also wish to stay in Muhajira to work or study.

Along with political tension and harsh social media campaigns, hate and discrimination against foreigners is on the rise. IOM was warned by the migrant community ambassadors that many fear violence and discrimination and are afraid even to leave their homes.



A study into attitudes and practices was asked and this is what the SBC researcher said:

- Many nationals from Muhajira struggle with the change of identity that comes with becoming a host country, whereas traditionally they have always been a sending country.
- Some locals feel a bit superior now that they have political privileges vis-à-vis the West and are afraid to lose those to others.
- Old beliefs dating back to precolonial times where certain ethnicities with darker skin worked as slaves to other with lighter skin, seem to reappear and feed a form of racism based on skin tone.
- People believe that mixing their culture with others is at the risk of losing their enormous heritage and cultural richness
- Research has shown that the above is due rather to the decrease of interest by young nationals and rise of social media
- Based on history, culture, languages and religion, the migrant and Muhajira communities have much more in common than Muhajira and Europe

Challenge: Come up with an activity that promotes social cohesion between migrant and host communities, by focusing on beliefs, norms and values.

Design question: How might we ...

