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Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Newsletter October 2021 – March 2022

Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme Horn of Africa

This is a new issue of the newsletter on progress and developments in the implementation of the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme. The project is funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). GIZ is responsible for the content of this newsletter.

Due to crises and natural disasters in and around the Horn of Africa, around 15 million people in the region have left their homes, 51 per cent of whom are traveling within the region (UN and IOM, 2021). The project aims to enable national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration and effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region by applying a human rights-based approach. This newsletter represents a short overview of its most recent achievements. The stories were originally published on the [EUTF website](#) or on the respective websites of BMM implementing partners. Find more general information about BMM and its initiatives at the end of this newsletter.

@GIZ / Omar Saad

Highlights

Somaliland: New strategy for coordinated migration management

Somalia is a country of origin, transit and destination for migration and deals with big numbers of movements every year. This situation poses some major challenges for migration management. Due to irregular migration, people on the move are exposed to threats such as human trafficking.

To improve this situation in Somaliland, a new 3-year strategy (2022-2025) has been launched by the Mixed Migration Taskforce (MMTF) in February 2022. The new strategy serves as an important tool to align all involved authorities and stakeholders

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on a cooperative agenda to improve migration management. 'The strategic plan will enable us to understand our current situation and what has to be done in the next 3 years in relation to migration governance in Somaliland,' Abdirahman Abdallahi Ismail Saylici, Vice-President of Somaliland says.

It applies to international standards of legislations and human rights to protect migrants, refugees and returnees as well as to combat human trafficking. [Read more.](#)



Group photo from the official launch of the strategic plan of the Mixed Migration Task Force at Ambassador Hotel in Hargeisa on 22 February 2022. ©GIZ

Djibouti launched new guidelines to better protect migrants and counter human trafficking

Djibouti has recently achieved a big improvement in supporting migrants and tracking cases of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. On 3 March 2022, IOM officially presented the National Referral Mechanism. By means of this mechanism, vulnerable migrants will be directed to appropriate and effective services. It has been developed to clarify the responsibilities of services and institutions and to predetermine all the steps to be followed in the process of supporting and protecting migrants in need.

BMM enables relevant actors to improve migration management

The mechanism will formalize and facilitate the provision of protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants transiting through Djibouti and has disseminated to all involved actors, so that the principles of protection of vulnerable migrants are fully understood, put into practice and respected. To re-read the opening speech of the EU Ambassador Aidan O'Hara at the official launch (in French), click [here](#).



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Uganda: Fighting human trafficking before it unfolds

BMM continues to support the prevention of human trafficking in Uganda. This includes spreading awareness and distributing information among the population to reduce the risks of human trafficking. The Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (COPTIP) plays a key role in this endeavor by coordinating all related measures. COPTIP also provides training for its member institutions such as the specialised law enforcement units, information and data as well as support for policy improvements.



Prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking. ©GIZ/Dennis Onen

Besides their trainings, the community awareness raising campaigns are an essential tool to reach as many potential victims of trafficking as possible and combat human trafficking where it originates, often within families and communities. 'Uganda faces a big problem nested in our local communities. People in our local communities don't even know that they aid human trafficking,' Damon Wamara, Executive Director of the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network says. [Read more](#)

In Short

Ethiopia: New Migration Response Center to assist migrants at the border



Constructions have started for the new Migration Response Center near Tog-wachale. ©IOM

The construction of a new Migration Response Center in Tog-wachale city at the Ethiopian border to Somalia has officially started in February 2022. The centre will be situated on the Eastern Migration Route frequently passed by migrants transiting through Somalia towards the Arabic Peninsula. Once completed, the center will provide immediate life-saving services as

well as longer-term assistance to stranded and vulnerable migrants. Up to 150

migrants will find shelter together with many other types of assistance. The completion of the centre is expected by mid-2022. [Read more.](#)

Somalia: The importance of a referral system to better protect child migrants

Children are the most vulnerable group among all migrants. Still, around 450,000 of them are estimated to be on the move in Somaliland annually, either from other Somali regions or even neighbouring countries. 'These children face a number of risks, from child marriage, rape and sex-trafficking to mental health problems and even death,' says Lawrence Oduma, Project Manager at UNICEF.



Minor migrants are especially vulnerable to human trafficking and need special protection. ©GIZ/Saddam Carab

The Somaliland Mixed Migration Task Force is coordinating all actors involved in managing migration in the region and established a national referral process to improve the identification and protection of and assistance to vulnerable migrants, including children and victims of trafficking. 'Now, if a child is identified as a victim of trafficking, it is much easier to refer them to the nearest safe house for shelter, food and protection or to provide legal services,' says Abdullahi Mohamed Jama, Director of Women's Action for Advocacy & Progress Organization (WAAPO). [Read more.](#)

Ethiopia: New National Migration Policy is on its way

Ethiopia successfully drafted a National Migration Policy. Once finalised, the policy will govern migration practices and manage migration-related development initiatives and processes. It also aims to gain positive impacts from migration and remittance income. Considering the complexity of migration in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa region, the policy is an important milestone on the way towards well-governed mobility and safe and orderly migration.

BMM
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Bottom-Up: An Ugandan coalition counters human trafficking and addresses the issues on the ground

Numerous Civil Society Organisations in Uganda contribute in large parts to create a society free from human trafficking. More than 40 of them have joined forces to form the Uganda Coalition against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP). This network helps to



A procession through Yumbe town, Uganda to raise awareness about counter trafficking. ©IOM

coordinate activities and have a unified voice, that is heard both by politicians and the population. 'Our major challenge is now to strengthen UCATIP's strategic role. We have to ensure our sustained relevance and expertise, including consistent operational standards and quality services to protect people against all forms of exploitation,' says Annette Kirabira, Director of Rahab.

UCATIP is building capacity to raise awareness, providing services to victims and contributing to national policy development, often in collaboration with the Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons . [Read more](#).

Kenya: The next generation is ready to get involved in migration management in the Horn of Africa

On 17 December 2021, the third cohort of students graduated from the postgraduate study course on migration at the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies. The course aims to improve and harmonise the migration management in the Horn of Africa region and is open to migration practitioners from the member states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The students have benefited from a combination of theoretical and practical experiences about migration management and governance with all its different facets. [See a short video](#).

Responding to the needs of female migrants in Djibouti

Among all migrants arriving in and transiting Djibouti, women are particularly vulnerable. Traveling irregular without valid documents, they are exposed to economic exploitation and physical abuse. 'Almost half of the migrants are women and girls who face specific challenges and risks in transit, including family separation,



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Nearly half of the migrants transiting through Djibouti are women. They need special assistance and protection. ©GIZ/Omar Saad

psychosocial stress and trauma, health complications – particularly for pregnant women – physical harm and injury,’ says Fatouma Houssein from the National Union of Djiboutian Women. The Union offers sanitation facilities, shelter and psychological support and is a major player in the assistance to and protection of female migrants. This also includes awareness-raising campaigns and workshops about women’s rights and opportunities to receive help, as well as training to empower women with helpful skills. [Read more](#) (French).

Kenya: National Guidelines giving victims of trafficking a new perspective

Miriam is a volunteer at Trace Kenya, a civil society organisation that works with victims of trafficking. Since she herself has been a victim of trafficking, she knows how important a common and coordinated approach is for taking effective action and provide the right kind of support. Therefore, BMM supports the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism which contributes towards preventing human trafficking, protecting individuals and prosecuting the traffickers.

‘The mechanism is a game changer in assisting people like Miriam. It provides guidelines and coordinated plans on how to identify and support victims of human trafficking. Once we have identified a victim, we know which pathway to follow, and who needs to be involved.’ says Paul Adhoch from Trace Kenya. [Read more](#).



Through the work of Trace Kenya and the referral mechanism, families can be reunited. ©GIZ/Dennis Onen



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Somalia: First study with data on human trafficking routes published

For the first time, civil society organisations have contributed to a structured data collection exercise examining human trafficking and risky migration routes all over Somalia. Freedom Collaborative collected the provided data to map human trafficking routes in Somalia and Somaliland and published its findings in a [report](#). This mapping exercise helps to counter the lack of data around human trafficking in the region and provides crucial information, such as trafficking hotspots, routes, modes of transport used and types of exploitation. [Read more](#).

Uganda: New equipment to reinforce Criminal Investigations Directorate



Official Handover Ceremony of computers in Kampala on 25 March 2022. ©Uganda Police Force

In March 2022, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime successfully handed over desktop computers to the Anti-Human Trafficking and Gender-based Violence Units of the Uganda Criminal Investigations Directorate. This equipment will support the investigations into human trafficking and smuggling of migrant cases and improve the prosecutions of human trafficking.

Regional: Streamlining law enforcement efforts to enhance the investigation of human trafficking

A key component for an effective fight against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons is a holistic and standardised approach of police and law enforcement units. In collaboration with the national law enforcement training institutions, standardised operating procedures for investigating and prosecuting crimes of

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trafficking were officially endorsed in Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. The aim is to enhance investigation and court proceedings against perpetrators and criminal networks, including through financial investigations and through international police and judiciary cooperation. It implies enhanced capacity to identify and protect victims of human trafficking. CIVIPOL and UNODC supported the establishment of these standard operational procedures through implementing curricula for training. Tools were



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established which are practice-oriented and aimed at systematic use, also paving the way for enhanced international cooperation.

Background and Conceptual Framework

The Better Migration Management (BMM) programme is a regional development cooperation project established under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) with the aim to counter the trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the region and strengthen the protection of migrant rights. BMM supports the countries of the Horn of Africa region in enhancing their cooperation and fostering common approaches to improve migration management. The project is designed to respond to the needs identified by the partner countries, taking their priorities as a basis for the activities that follow a human rights-based approach. Key to the project is the alignment with existing mechanisms and initiatives of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Based on the results of the programme's phase I, the second phase focuses on consolidating a regional, holistic approach to migration management and on ensuring its sustainability beyond the duration of the programme. Phase II is funded by the EUTF with 30 million Euro and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with 5 million Euro for a duration of 3 years (October 2019 to September 2022). Implementation is currently taking place in eight partner countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda). A more comprehensive overview can be found on the [GIZ website](#) and [EUTF website](#).

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