



Newsletter April 2022 – September 2022

Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme Horn of Africa



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This is a new issue of the newsletter on progress and developments in the implementation of the BMM programme, funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Established in 2016, the programme enters its third phase in October 2022. It aims to enable national authorities and institutions in the Horn of Africa to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. We are therefore working to improve migration governance, address human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, and provide protection to vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking.

The third phase will build on the previous ones and focuses on consolidating a holistic regional approach to migration management and ensuring its sustainability after the programme has ended.

This newsletter features a selection of highlights and achievements from the last six months. You will find more general information about BMM and its initiatives at the end of this newsletter.

Highlights

Regional routes mapping: An initiative for evidence-based or anti-trafficking interventions

A total of 31 civil society organisations (CSOs) have collected and provided data – in total 517 submissions relating to 34 countries – that has been compiled in the report ‘Regional Mapping of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants’ Routes’.

Since 2017, BMM has been supporting CSOs working with vulnerable migrants and combating human trafficking in the Horn of Africa. More than 60 of these CSOs have formed a regional network to promote safe and fair migration.

Implemented by

The mapping initiated by this network provides valuable collective data on human trafficking routes, helps to address the lack of information on this issue and offers crucial insights into matters such as trafficking hotspots, routes, modes of transport used and types of exploitation. The substantial volume of data provided underlines the fact that migrants face a high risk of exploitation and abuse throughout the region and beyond, implying that there are no 'safe' routes or locations and highlights existing protection gaps. The data reveals some instances of re-trafficking indicating gaps with regard to sustainable solutions for victims of human trafficking and access to effective rehabilitation care and long-term reintegration support.

BMM supports safe and regular migration and provides protection to migrants

The data collection is a major step forward as it improves access to evidence that is essential for operational, tactical and strategic decision-making by relevant actors. It also clearly illustrates the need to expand partnerships with stakeholders in all countries of origin, transit and destination, to achieve effective, cooperative international migration management and the protection of migrants and victims of trafficking. [Find the report here](#)

Kenya: Involving the transport sector in the protection of possible victims of trafficking



WAIT.VARIFY.MOVE – Preventing human trafficking through information displayed on bus head rests. ©GIZ

In 2021, Trace Kenya and Candle of Hope Foundation launched a comprehensive awareness campaign about human trafficking in the public transport sector.

On the one hand, the CSOs have trained actors such as bus conductors so that they are better informed and know what to do to help possible victims. On the other hand, they have sensitised passengers by posting messages about a helpline on head rests in buses, at bus

stations, booking offices and on tickets. With success: a growing number of people have called the helpline; more cases have been reported and more victims of trafficking have been referred to support centres.

There are plans to expand the campaign and to broadcast radio spots in the buses in Swahili and other local languages such as Somali and Giriama. [Read more](#)

Ethiopia: Establishment of ‘Best interests of the child’ committee



Globally, one in every three victims of trafficking is a child, according to the UN. To counter human trafficking, BMM is assisting its partners in implementing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and national referral mechanisms. Specific procedures, such as the Best Interests

Determination, help in dealing with unaccompanied and separated children.

One of the first best interests committees has been set up in Ethiopia’s Amhara region. It is composed of representatives of all relevant actors concerned with supporting unaccompanied children, including the Bureau of Women and Social Affairs, the Bureau of Labour and Skills, the police, the judiciary and CSOs. The aim is to weigh up all relevant factors in a child’s case in order to identify and decide on the best option for referring the child to protection services or reuniting them with their family. [Read more](#)

In Short

Sudan: Medical equipment for El Gedaref

El Gedaref town, situated on the road connecting Khartoum in Sudan with Metemma in Ethiopia, is an agricultural trading centre that manages a large number of migrants especially for seasonal labour.

Based on a memorandum of understanding with the State Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, El Gedaref, BMM has provided equipment and training to several medical institutions in the region to improve their services for vulnerable migrants and citizens. The teaching hospital received diagnostic and emergency instruments as well as training for the staff. Also, a child-friendly space is to be rehabilitated to improve psychosocial support for families, including psychotherapy treatment for patients who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.



Delivery of medical equipment for health facilities in El Gedaref

The Sudan Family Planning Association El Gedaref is receiving support in providing primary health care services at the health clinic and through their mobile health clinic. The latter is particularly aimed to identify vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking with medical assistance needs and refer them to appropriate facilities.

Djibouti: Safe migration needs functioning institutions – nationally and locally

BMM strengthens coordination between state institutions in charge of managing migration movements at local, national and regional levels. At the local level, prefectures play a crucial role in implementing the national strategy on migration and better protecting migrants.



In July the prefectures of Ali-Sabieh, Dikhil and Obock received technical equipment comprising computers and laptops, printers and office furniture to support their administrative functions. This is also part of capacity-building measures enabling the local actors to ensure and monitor that the national directives issued by the national coordination office are applied in the field.

Somalia/Somaliland: First call made



Immigration checkpoints are now better connected via radio networks

Smooth and secure communication is an important precondition for making migration safe and secure. BMM supported improved radio communication between immigration officials in Berbera and Wajaale and their headquarters in Hargeisa.

Both stations have received radio equipment and set up a Tetra radio network. This improves the secure flow of information between officers at border crossings and their operational capacities, enabling them to carry out their work more efficiently and effectively and thus to better protect migrants. Radio room operators from each station were trained in how to operate, maintain and maximise the functionality of the new equipment. The first call was

made successfully on 2 August 2022. Overall, this measure will assist in facilitating the orderly and secure movement of people and goods.

Regional: Experience-sharing and cooperation to address human trafficking



Prosecution, protection, prevention, partnership: Following these principles of an anti-trafficking response, BMM has supported its partners in developing and implementing standard operating procedures to counter human trafficking. International cooperation across borders is crucial to achieving sustainable impact.

In a regional workshop in September 2022, BMM, together with the two EU-financed projects ROCK (Regional Operational Centre in support of the Khartoum process and the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative) and AML/THB (Anti-Money Laundering – Trafficking in Human Beings), brought together actors from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to work on international policing, judiciary cooperation and financial investigation. Following lively debates, the participants proposed solutions to structure interactions at multilateral and bilateral level via coordinated approaches such as joint investigations and joint committees.

A few days prior to the workshop, the Ugandan stakeholders had established a multi-actor taskforce to promote and monitor the application of the national SOPs, developed with support from BMM. Members of the taskforce were represented in the regional workshop, where they were able to share their experience.

Making their voices heard: Involving local communities in in policy-making



Together with its partner CSOs, BMM established community platforms. Bringing together migrants and returnees, host communities members and local government officials from departments working on migration management, these platforms allow the inclusion of local perspectives in policy-making processes. For returnees like Gizachew Asmamaw, the strength of the platform was the

participation of stakeholders in the conversations and development of recommendations. He explains: 'The platforms allowed the voices of common people about policies and practices to be heard by government officials.' Similarly, government officers highlighted the importance of the space that the platforms created for them to directly interact with returnees and prospective migrants.

BMM provided training to allow the members of the platforms to engage in informed discussions of key migration and migration governance issues and enable them to become agents of change and contribute to improving migration policies.

‘A little hope’: Economic opportunities for migrants and returnees in Ethiopia



Creating sustainable opportunities for returnees, migrants and victims of trafficking is a long-standing issue in the Horn of Africa. In September BMM launched its new report ‘In Search of Sustainable Opportunities: Mapping of economic initiatives for migrants, returnees and victims of trafficking in Ethiopia’.

The report compiles data on economic opportunities in-country to support migrants, returnees and victims of trafficking, highlights

challenges and gaps but also success stories. I was elaborated in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Skills and the National Partnership Coalition under the Ministry of Justice. The report aims to inform future programming for all stakeholders in the migration sphere as well as identify good practices that can generate solutions, offering real opportunities to returning Ethiopians. [Read more](#); [Download Report](#)

Blue heart campaign: Together Against Human Trafficking



30 July marks the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, a day set aside to raise awareness about human trafficking and the need for protection of victims and

vulnerable migrants. Through various activities BMM improves the effectiveness of institutions addressing trafficking and smuggling. Our teams in our partner countries organised events to provide information about this crime and supported the Blue Heart Campaign, launched by UNODC. The campaign raises awareness around the globe of human trafficking and its impact on people and society while showing solidarity with human trafficking victims. It encourages involvement from governments, civil society, the corporate sector and individuals to take action and help prevent human trafficking.

Background and Conceptual Framework

The Better Migration Management (BMM) programme is a regional development cooperation programme established under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) with the aim of combating the trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the region and strengthening 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 programme is designed to respond to the needs identified by the partner countries, using their priorities as a basis for the activities that follow a human rights-based approach. Key to the programme is its alignment with existing mechanisms and initiatives of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Phase II was funded by the EUTF with EUR 30 million and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with EUR 5 million for a duration of three years (October 2019 to September 2022). The new phase III has started on 1 October 2022 and will focus on consolidating a regional, holistic approach to migration management and on ensuring its sustainability beyond the duration of the programme. BMM continues to be implemented in eight partner countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda) together with the five implementation partners British Council, Civipol, IOM, GIZ and UNODC.

A more comprehensive overview can be found on the [GIZ website](#) and [EUTF website](#).

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