



Newsletter April 2023 – November 2023

## Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme Horn of Africa



We are pleased to share with you the 14<sup>th</sup> issue of the newsletter on progress and developments in implementing the Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU).

Join us for a tour of some of the highlights from the first months of implementation of BMM phase III, with the prospect of more highlights to come. Read about our analogue activities, such as the CSO shelter study tour to improve protection measures for migrants in need, and find out how we support digital solutions, for example to scale up the fight against human trafficking in Uganda. We also proudly present the new name and logo of the CSO Network and report on an exciting museum trip taken by our partners from Somalia to Germany. We wish you an enjoyable read.

### Highlights

#### Shelter tour: Shared learning for better protection of survivors of trafficking

‘Learning from each other to improve services and identify areas for cooperation’ was the motto of a joint tour taken by representatives from 10 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). All 10 CSOs are engaged in assisting survivors of human trafficking. In Uganda they visited shelters for victims of trafficking, shared ideas and recommendations and agreed on various courses of action to improve their services for those in need. Facilitated by BMM, the shelter study tour paid off: more than 40 good practices were developed. These include prohibiting or strictly controlling the photographing of people living in shelters to ensure that their privacy is respected and to avoid them being identified and located. Another recommended practice is the introduction of house rules drawn up together with the trafficking survivors.

Implemented by

A good practice identified for sustainable financing is diversifying sources of funding, for instance, by setting up a for-profit arm or partnering with local businesses for in-kind donations and with schools and hospitals for reduced fees.

Running shelters for victims of trafficking is no easy task. The first and foremost priority is providing protection and ensuring full safety for those who have survived exploitation, violence and abuse. Read more about the challenges and solutions in the full article:

[Shelter tour: Shared learning for better protection of survivors of trafficking \(europa.eu\)](#)



## **EHAAT: 'We are many, we are committed, we are experienced'**

When one partner withdraws, it is a chance for others to step up – and this is how EHAAT was born. EHAAT stands for East & Horn of Africa Anti-Trafficking Network. It means togetherness and promotes joint action against human trafficking and the protection of migrants in need.



In 2017, BMM created a Regional Network of CSOs working in the field of migration. Providing shelter, medical and legal aid for migrants in need, advocating for their rights and raising awareness about the risks of trafficking and smuggling are among the CSOs' activities. This makes them important partners for BMM, which has supported the CSOs over the years with training and financial assistance. 'BMM has been a changemaker for our work,' says Nimo Ali, Director of the Candle of Hope Foundation in Kenya. 'The training has significantly enhanced our capacities to deliver essential services to those in need.'

The Network idea was to enable the CSOs to collaborate, exchange ideas and best practices and to close possible service gaps. Given the regional and thematic diversity, the CSOs can coordinate their services and offer them at key hubs along typical migration routes – leaving no one behind.

In early 2023 the Network developed a roadmap to sustainability, a joint mission and a vision statement. The naming – EHAAT – followed in October 2023, as did the creation of a logo for common visibility and recognition, continuing the journey towards more ownership and sustainability.

BMM will support the CSOs in implementing the roadmap to achieve organisational sustainability and independence. 'We are many, we are committed and we are experienced,' says Nimo Ali. 'This will allow us to stand on our own feet.'

# Unlocking the 21st century's Digital Gold: How Data helps to protect migrants

Digital solutions are particularly valuable in the fight against human trafficking as they improve the analysis of large amounts of data and help to identify relevant information so that it can be prioritised and categorised. In cooperation with partners in Uganda, the BMM Programme hosted the launch and supported the development of two data-driven solutions in 2023. What better day to do this than the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, namely 30 July.

The online service directory is a platform that compiles information about dozens of CSOs and other institutions in Uganda that offer care and protection services to survivors of trafficking and vulnerable migrants. The directory allows users to find the services they need in their area. Besides the address of the shelter or office, it indicates the opening hours, the telephone number and exact services of the respective provider, thus enabling those seeking help to make direct contact. This minimises the problem of them being referred several times before finally reaching the organisation offering the services they require. Services on the platform range from family reunification to medical care, job placement and more.



The website of the online service directory, showing a selection of results for "Case Management" services in Kampala.



Launch of the National Trafficking Database on 30 July through a ceremonial signing.

The National Database on trafficking in human beings was the second tool launched on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. It simplifies and improves processes, such as the reporting and follow-up on cases of trafficking. The aim is to keep a history of victims and perpetrators, which will be 'instrumental in providing figures to support the development of anti-trafficking policies,' says Twinomujuni Julius, National Coordinator of the Coordination Office for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (COPTIP).

# SOPs – The toolkit to counter human trafficking and unite forces across borders

In Kenya, both the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Investigating Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants and a Multi-Agency Technical Working Group will be officially launched by the end of this year. UNODC and CIVIPOL supported the criminal justice system agencies and other actors, including CSOs, in designing the SOPs with a view to establishing a coordinated approach in the criminal proceedings against human trafficking. These standardised inter-agency operating procedures are a key element for more effective and efficient border management, facilitating identification, care and assistance for victims of trafficking and migrants.

To ensure the application of SOPs' in a sustainable way, the Multi-Agency Technical Working Group steps in, set up by BMM. Under the leadership of state agencies, the Working Group reaches out to first responders such as immigration officers and the police and monitors the use of the SOPs.



*More effective and efficient border management to better protect migrants is a common goal for all actors involved in the fight against trafficking in persons.*

While at the national level it allows better coordination between relevant agencies, BMM also promotes cooperation in the implementation of the SOPs

across borders. A Regional Forum in Nairobi brought together stakeholders from the National Multi-Agency Task Forces of Ethiopia and Uganda and the Multi-Agency Technical Working Groups of Djibouti and Kenya. Human trafficking and smuggling do



*Key actors of anti-trafficking efforts from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda are brought together for a Regional Forum.*

not stop at borders, but rather manifest themselves at borders which emphasises the imperative importance of bilateral and multilateral responses. The participants agreed on the idea to develop SOPs specifically for international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. And they agreed to go even further and extend them to protection by including aspects that facilitate closer cooperation with CSOs and other protection service providers. To this

end, Coordinators of the Offices in charge of National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) were also invited. This also allowed reflection on the benefit of regional NCMs to improve area-wide protection and assistance to victims.

## In Short

### Annual Planning Workshops 2024 with the keyword sustainability

Fruitful discussions with thought-provoking questions: as every year, BMM's Annual Planning Workshops are taking place between October and December. The BMM teams in the partner countries bring together representatives of implementing organisations, including governmental partners, civil society and other non-governmental agencies, to discuss the annual work plans for 2024. Results achieved are reviewed and celebrated, expected outcomes are discussed and upcoming activities are defined.



*Participants of the Annual Planning Workshop in Kampala, Uganda 2023*

This year, the focus is on presenting and discussing the sustainability aspects of the activities, with the aim of making BMM's impact last in the long term. Throughout the current phase all partners will continue to work jointly on a sustainability strategy.

### “Je, uko na kitambulisho?” - “Do you have an ID?”



Displaced persons often lose all their belongings, including birth certificates and other legal documents. Obtaining new certificates and registration is not a straightforward process. People are often unable to get to the relevant authorities in person due to distance. To address this problem, IOM has been working with the Civil Registration Service in Kenya to conduct on-site mobile registration and issue certificates to

border community members in three Kenyan sub-counties. In Kajiado county for example, over 1,100 community members were successfully registered and issued certificates within only one week.

The overall goal is to ensure that universal human civil rights can indeed be applied. For example, people without legal documentation often lack access to education and employment opportunities. Due to the lack of data on the population, it is also more difficult for the government to compile reliable statistics and to improve service delivery, for example by checking whether a medical facility is overburdened in relation to the number of people living in a given area. In parallel with the registration process on the ground, IOM is running an awareness-raising campaign to inform communities about the importance of registration and documentation to assert their rights.

## Exploring migration narratives: Somali representatives on a study tour to German museums

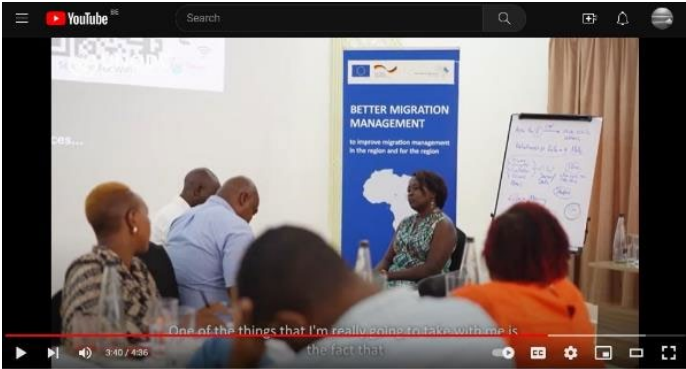
How to engage people in the complex issue of migration was the theme of a one-week study tour to Germany, to which representatives from the Somalia National Museum (SNM) and the Presidential Office of the Special Envoy on Migrants and Children’s Rights (OSE) were invited in July. The Somali representatives visited five migration-related museums and centres, where they received warm welcomes and personalised tours, for example, at the German Emigration Center in Bremerhaven. They shared knowledge and discussed the role of museums in shaping the identity of a country. One takeaway was that simple objects, such as photographs or clothes left behind by migrants, can tell powerful stories and capture the essence of migration throughout history.



*Somali representatives visit the Center for Documentation and Museum of Migration in Germany (DOMID) among 4 other museums.*

The study tour was one of four major activities designed to support the OSE in its mandate to provide outreach on migration issues. As part of these activities, the OSE is cooperating with the SNM on follow-up activities, including the curation of an exhibition on migration in Somalia and an outreach campaign on the risks of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants that targets young Somalis in Mogadishu.

## New video: UNODC mentorship helps to see beyond the obvious



Watch our new video for a glimpse behind the scenes of BMM’s mentoring for the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit in Nairobi and the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Director of Criminal Investigation in Mombasa. The human rights-based and victim-centred mentoring program brings together police and prosecutors to enhance their

cooperation and it demonstrates how to best manage human trafficking and smuggling cases throughout the entire criminal justice process. A core part of the program is the simulation on interrogating suspects and interviewing victims and witnesses. ‘The training gave me a better eye and greater knack for details and helps me see beyond the obvious,’ says one participant.

A similar mentorship is also provided in Ethiopia to the Federal Police's Transnational Organized Crime Investigation Division, with a focus on proactive investigation. It involves gathering intelligence and using advanced investigative methods to identify and disrupt criminal networks in their early stages.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ECAzdq-Ytw>

## Human rights are migrant's rights

BMM is committed to protecting the fundamental rights of all human beings, including migrants, who often face exclusion from security, dignity and non-discrimination. The best defender of human rights is a vibrant civil society. This is why we strengthen independent national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in fulfilling their mandate to monitor, protect and promote migrants' rights.

A workshop held in Uganda on 30 and 31 August brought together representatives of NHRIs from Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti and South Sudan as well as from the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). They exchanged views on strategies to shape anti-trafficking laws and to improve migration policies, on access to legal aid for migrants and on alternatives to detention. In addition, they discussed the possibilities for closer collaboration and the creation of sustainable human rights-based migration governance. The participants agreed to jointly develop an action plan containing concrete steps to be implemented along the partnership.



*Representatives of NHRIs from the Horn of Africa gathered to discuss on how to shape laws and policies concerning migration and anti-trafficking efforts.*

## Background and Conceptual Framework

The Better Migration Management (BMM) programme is a regional development cooperation programme commissioned by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and co-financed by the European Union with the aim of combating the trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the region and strengthening the protection of migrants' 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 (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Phase III is running from October 2022 to September 2025 with an overall budget of EUR 41 million. It is implemented by the five implementation partners British Council, CIVIPOL, IOM, GIZ and UNODC in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.

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



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