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Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Newsletter November 2020 – March 2021

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 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, 2019). 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.

Highlights

Measures for safe and legal migration – BMM operational plan 2021

BMM and its national partners outlined further activities to promote migration management in the Horn of Africa

In November and December 2020, BMM and its national partners came together in annual planning workshops to adjust the programme activities to reflect progress and current conditions in each country. Against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshops were partially held online. The pandemic also meant that some of last year's programme activities had to be postponed and are now scheduled for 2021.

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One of the key aspects of migration governance is the establishment of national legal frameworks for safe and orderly migration. BMM measures targeted in this component for 2021 include supporting the legal adaptation of the National Migration Policy in South Sudan and promoting a bilateral agreement between Sudan and Ethiopia for safe and regular labour migration from Ethiopia.

BMM responds to the needs in the partner countries

To improve actions against human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, BMM will continue strengthening relevant institutions addressing these crimes, for instance through specialised trainings on investigation and prosecution. At the workshop in Kenya, plans for joint training courses for investigators, prosecutors and the judiciary were put in place for 2021. In Uganda, BMM's work will include capacity building at the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and civil society organisations (CSOs) on migrants' human rights.

Improving services for migrant assistance and protection is the third pillar of BMM. BMM in Ethiopia focuses particularly on child migrants in this regard as they need special protection. In 2021, BMM will promote training relevant CSOs on referring child migrants to services that meet their needs and protect their interests. BMM in Eritrea will support the production of communication materials for a national awareness campaign on human trafficking and smuggling. In Djibouti, the programme will continue to support the establishment of information centres for migrants where they can obtain information on services and their rights and submit complaints on human rights violations. Find the whole story [here](#).

Uganda and Kenya enhance bilateral legal cooperation



Law enforcement officials from Kenya and Uganda were interconnected online due to COVID-19 regulations. Photo: UNODC

An online workshop improved joint actions to curb human trafficking and smuggling of migrants

BMM brought together representatives from the Kenyan and Ugandan Offices of the Attorney General and of the Director of Public Prosecutions in February 2021 to enhance their legal cross-border cooperation. These joint actions are essential to effectively address human trafficking and smuggling of migrants that likewise transcend borders. 'Our two



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countries share borders and more often than not there is frequent movement of persons between the two countries, some in violation of the two countries' laws,' said Catherine Mwaniki, Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions and Head of International Cooperation, Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Division at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Kenya, who participated in the event.

BMM improves investigation and prosecution of human trafficking

The training addressed mutual legal assistance and extradition in trafficking and smuggling cases. The participants gained background knowledge on laws and procedures for their cooperation. But the focus lay on the improvement of practical skills in both drafting outgoing and handling incoming requests. Find the whole story [here](#).

Somalia, Kenya & Ethiopia: Equipment for anti-trafficking units

Specialised anti-trafficking units in the countries were supported with needed equipment for actions against human trafficking and smuggling of migrants

BMM handed over vehicles and other equipment to the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Somali Police Force (SPF) Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Somalia in November, and to the Anti-Human Trafficking & Child Protection unit (AHTCPU) of the Kenya Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) in Kenya in December 2020. Additionally, the specialised Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ethiopia Federal Police Commission received office equipment and forensics items in March 2021.

Tens of thousands of migrants and refugees cross Somalia every year on their journey to the Gulf States. Ethiopia is likewise a major transit hub for migrants on their way to the Gulf region and Kenya is a main hub for all types of migration in the Horn of Africa region. Many migrants travel irregularly,



George Kinoti, Director of DCI in Kenya (left) receives the symbolic key for the vehicles and other equipment from Thomas Wimmer, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Economic Affairs, at the German Embassy in Nairobi. Photo: UNODC



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often out of necessity, and are thus vulnerable to fall victim to traffickers and smugglers. These transnational criminal activities therefore pose a serious challenge to the governments in all three countries. The provision of equipment is part of the BMM efforts to strengthen institutions that address human trafficking and smuggling of migrants in the region. BMM also provides technical expertise and support to promote them. The goal is to ensure that the institutions – and their specialised anti-trafficking units – possess the necessary capacities to meet the complex challenges of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Find the whole articles about the handovers in [Somalia](#) and [Kenya](#) here.

Kenya: Report on migrant detention reveals human rights violations

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) uncovered several ways in which human rights of migrants in detention are threatened



More than one third of the interviewed migrants in detention found it hard to make official complaints about human rights violations. Photo: GIZ

Detention is currently used at various stages of processing irregular migrants in Kenya, for instance on arrival and during preparation for repatriation. BMM supports the Kenyan Government in implementing the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) that defines migrant detention as a last resort. With BMM assistance, KNCHR now conducted a survey report on migrant detention to fill statistical gaps and develop appropriate solutions. 'We found rampant use of migrant detention as a main strategy to address irregular migration and hence systemic migrant rights violations,' said



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KNCHR Deputy Director Veronica Mwangi during the launch of the report in November 2020.

KNCHR reported that migrant rights are threatened in detention where irregular migrants are mixed with convicted criminals. Disclosed violations against the migrants include cruel treatment during the arrest, discrimination in prison and a lack of adequate legal, medical, social or psychological assistance and protection for victims of trafficking. As a response, the report recommends an individualised case management that considers factors such as gender, age and the circumstances of the case to decide how to deal with the individual migrant. ‘We will use these findings to engage the government and relevant stakeholders to advocate for necessary reforms to safeguard migrant rights,’ said Mwangi. Find the whole story [here](#) and the report [here](#).

In Short

Regional: Further support for the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS)



KIMS Coordinator Dr Gabriel Lubale receives sanitizer products, masks and thermometers. Photo: GIZ

The first cohort of the post graduate course on migration studies from KIMS in Nairobi received their diploma in December 2020 –in a virtual ceremony due to COVID-19. In February 2021, BMM provided KIMS with hygiene and protection equipment to enable students of the current class to move back from online to face-to-face learning for their second semester.

Strengthened joint actions against human trafficking

BMM supports national authorities in creating clear structures to enhance cooperation in investigation and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. In December 2020, the programme facilitated a consultation workshop with the Criminal Investigations Directorate and the Office of the Director of Public



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Prosecutions in Uganda. The participants assessed the existing cooperation and initiated the development of standard operating procedures.

Sudan: Overcoming language barriers to protect and assist migrants

Members of the specialised Family and Child Protection Unit and the Counter Trafficking Unit in Sudan received training on the basics of communication in Amharic in February 2021. Many Ethiopians migrate to Sudan in search of work. As many of them speak Amharic, first responders in the special units in Sudan can assist vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking better if they can speak this language as well.

Djibouti: Another step towards managing safe migration

In February 2021, BMM organised a consultation workshop in Djibouti to promote the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. Government actors discussed the national strategy to facilitate safe, regular and orderly migration in the country. Find an article about the workshop from *La Nation* [here](#).

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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Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Better Migration Management / GIZ

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This publication was produced with financial support of the European Union and the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. GIZ is responsible for the content.