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Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Newsletter, 1 quarter 2020

Better Migration Management (BMM) 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.

Crises and natural disasters in and around the Horn of Africa have forced around ten million people in the region to leave their homes, four million of whom are seeking refuge or asylum chiefly in neighbouring states (UN, 2019). The project aims to improve migration management in the region, and to address trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa. The priority is to strengthen the rights of migrants and protect them from violence, abuse, and exploitation. The objective is to make migration in the region easier and safer. Find more information at the end of this newsletter.

BMM – first phase finalised, second phase started

End of September 2019, the first phase of the project was finalised with good

Results of phase 1 (2016-2019)



174,600 migrants, potential migrants, and host community members involved in outreach activities



16,600 government and civil society representatives engaged in workshops, trainings, roundtable discussions and other events. **60** government institutions and **40** civil society actors supported



232 capacity building measures for **5,224** stakeholders implemented



18,200 vulnerable migrants assisted. Thereof, **9,249** vulnerable migrants provided with accommodation, basic services and counselling. **6,759** migrants supported by mobile health units

results. The European Union and Germany decided to continue with a second phase to consolidate the regional, holistic approach to migration management and its sustainability beyond project duration (planned to end in September 2022).

During its first phase, BMM reached more than 200,000 persons in the Horn of Africa. Beside direct support to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, BMM successfully supported representatives of governments and civil society

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organisations by strengthening their capacities to better manage migration and to systematically cooperate at multiple levels within the countries, bilaterally and regionally. You will find some highlights on the following pages as well as further information on the [European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa \(EUTF\) website](#) and the [GIZ website](#).

On 1 October 2019, the second phase of BMM officially started. Planning workshops in the partner countries took place in November and December 2019 as well as in January 2020. BMM II is implemented in a partnership with British Council, Civipol, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as well as GIZ as lead organisation. BMM II has a budget of 35 Million Euro funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) and the BMZ for the period 1 October 2019 until 30 September 2022. The concrete planning of activities already started with implementing partners and national partners in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda. The project will continue to work towards the overall objective of improving the human-rights based management of safe, orderly and regular migration.

BMM II will focus on three areas. First, **migration Governance**, where the project will support safe and regular migration in accordance with global and regional migration governance frameworks and human rights. Secondly, BMM II will enhance **cooperation on anti-trafficking and migrant smuggling** between institutions which regulate migration and counter human trafficking on a national, bilateral, and regional level. Finally, in the area of **Protection**, BMM II will improve service provision and accessibility with a focus on sustainable solutions for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

BMM Implementation Highlights 2019

Sudan and Ethiopia agreed on cooperation to support safe and regular labour migration

BMM supported cross-border cooperation to improve conditions for Ethiopian seasonal labour migrants in Sudan.



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Every year, about 80,000 Ethiopian migrants from Amhara Region cross the border to Sudan to find work in the agriculture sector in El Gedaref State. Seasonal labour has become an important income source for Ethiopian migrants and their families, as well as an important support to farming and agricultural production in Sudan.

However, due to the lack of existing legal frameworks, border crossings and employment are often irregular, leaving workers with no or only little protection from exploitation and abuse by employers and other perpetrators.

BMM facilitated the cross-border exchange between representatives of the relevant institutions of Ethiopia and Sudan to improve the situation of the seasonal workers. The project supported the implementation of a comprehensive action plan aiming at improving services (entry, employment law, health insurance) at official border crossing-points and promoting regular migration. In the second phase, BMM will continue to promote bilateral cooperation to establish a regular and safe labour migration.



Ethiopian seasonal workers in El Gedaref State in Sudan. Photo: GIZ/Wasil Engel

South Sudan: towards countering transnational organised crime

BMM supported South Sudan to counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling in line with international standards.

“If crime crosses borders, so must law enforcement”, Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated once. Human traffickers commit cross-border crimes, they violently exploit and abuse their victims. Migrant smugglers often switch to the role of human traffickers, blackmailing or selling their “customers” to make even more money. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally.

BMM addresses human trafficking and migrant smuggling

In 2000, the United Nations adopted a resolution for an international treaty against organized crime across borders. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) regulates the prevention and fight against organised crime globally, and provides the legal basis for international legal aid, extradition and police



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cooperation. The aim is to harmonise national laws and set uniform standards for domestic law, and to intensify cooperation between states in the fight against organised crime. It also includes internationally recognised definitions and procedures to identify and protect victims of trafficking and smuggling.

So far, the convention has been signed by 147 states worldwide. With support of BMM, South Sudan made the first steps towards accessing the convention, and discussed the process with representatives of the government and civil society. The project has already provided advisory support to national governments on international legislative frameworks and supported the drafting of national legislation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.

The support of South Sudan's accession to UNTOC and its protocols will continue under BMM II.

Second Migration Profile for Kenya developed

The migration profile gives a systematic overview of migration trends and connected statistical data to identify needs for better migration management in Kenya.

Who is migrating from and to Kenya? What are migrants looking for and what do they need? Which economic impact has migration to Kenya? How widespread is human trafficking in Kenya and what can be done to better protect migrants from human trafficking?

Up-to-date evidence-based information on migration is crucial for migration policy-making. "Migration in Kenya – A Country Profile 2018" was launched by the Ministry of Interior on 8 May 2019. The document covers the years 2015-2018, highlights emerging migration trends, the impact of migration on demographics, socioeconomic development, health and environment as well as migration governance, which encompasses migration policy, laws and regulations. The drafting of the profile was supported by BMM and is an update of the first migration profile launched in 2015. It shows for example that the financial contributions of the Kenyan diaspora, estimated at about 185 billion Kenyan shillings (1,7 billion USD) in 2017, is one of the highest contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of estimated 163,7 billion USD in that year. After the endorsement of the profile by the Kenyan parliament, BMM will continue to support the government in improving its migration policy. BMM is currently also supporting the development of migration profiles in South Sudan and Ethiopia.



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Djibouti and Somaliland cooperate to protect victims of trafficking

Djibouti's and Somaliland's coastguards have agreed on jointly countering human trafficking networks, and to assist and protect victims of trafficking discovered in the Red Sea together.

The main Eastern migration route to the Gulf States leads through Djibouti and Somalia. Thousands of men, women and children head there every year, hoping to



Coastguard ships in the Red Sea.
Photo: GIZ

move on over the Red Sea to the Gulf States, to escape poverty and unemployment at home. Very often, smugglers and human traffickers organise the crossings under life-threatening conditions, as many boats capsize or get so crowded that people go overboard. Many of the victims drown as they do not know how to swim.

With support of BMM, an Aide-Mémoire was signed to consolidate cooperation between the coastguards of Djibouti and Somaliland. BMM further supported coastguards in establishing a platform to regularly exchange information to better coordinate assistance and protection for

migrants and victims of human trafficking, and to counter human trafficking at the Red Sea by exchanging information they received from the victims and collaborating to investigate criminal networks.

Who does what? Mapping of service provision to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants

For the first time ever, BMM has mapped service providers across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan as well as in Somaliland. The collected and vetted information will help institutions and organisations to refer vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking to the appropriate services, according to their individual needs.

Only a few organisations have the capacity to provide all the services that a victim of trafficking might need, such as shelter, emergency medical care, legal assistance, short term financial assistance, family tracing, skills training, and psychosocial support. However, one or more of these services might be needed once a vulnerable migrant or victim of trafficking has been identified, be it within or outside the country of origin. So far, victims had to rely on the initiative and ability of every organisation to



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find suitable service providers to get adequate care. The overview of all services and providers compiled by BMM across Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan as well as in Somaliland not only means faster and broader possibilities of referral, it also increases general knowledge and awareness on complementary service providers in the same field. For example, a legal aid provider in Kenya will be able to easily find an emergency shelter for a Sudanese client whilst also helping to reach the victim's family back in Sudan. In addition, the mapping can be used to identify possibilities of new networks and cooperation.



Migrants from Ethiopia cross Djibouti on their way to the Arabian Peninsula. Due to the climate conditions they are often dehydrated.
Photo: GIZ/Raed Saleh

Improved healthcare for migrants

As migrants often face severe health problems and injuries during their journeys, BMM supported health care providers to better respond to their needs.

Migrants, especially when migrating irregularly, face numerous challenges on their journeys, experiencing dehydration, scorpion or snake bites, injuries, infection, or



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abuse by smugglers or human traffickers. Profound knowledge on health issues related to migration is fundamental to provide appropriate services to migrants in need. The mobile health units and clinics supported by BMM under phase one assisted over 6,700 migrants with medical and psychosocial services in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. Furthermore, BMM provided trainings on health care for migrants to over 300 participants from government and civil-society organisations in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan. The trainings also included the topics of human trafficking, identification of victims and vulnerable migrants, consequences of human trafficking as well as necessary support and assistance measures. These trainings will continue under BMM II to provide improved services to more migrants in need.

Migrants need information and protection

BMM has so far reached more than 174,600 potential migrants, migrants, and members of host communities with awareness-raising activities on migrant's rights and protection. Events focused on the fight against and the consequences of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a global problem and no country is immune to it. Millions of people who leave their home country in search for a better life fall into the hands of traffickers, lured by fake promises and deceit, and experience economic exploitation and physical abuse. Victims of trafficking are often traumatised and need medical and psycho-social care, as well as support to build a future.

BMM provided information and advice on migration-related topics. Awareness campaigns were organised to inform potential migrants about regular migration opportunities, job and study opportunities abroad, and other livelihood options. The project raised political and public awareness of the rights and protection needs of migrants to avoid criminalisation of migrants who have been victims of trafficking. Since 2017, BMM facilitated several events on International Migrants Day, World Day Against Trafficking, and Human Rights Day in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.

BMM sensitises on migration and migrants' rights

BMM also works with civil society organisations (CSOs) to counter human trafficking and to increase protection of victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants. The project provided trainings to the members of the CSOs to improve legal aid for victims of trafficking and CSO services. Furthermore, the project promoted a regional Forum to Promote Safe and Fair Migration with 40 CSOs to increase their



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cooperation and to empower them to take a more active role in migration management and service provision.

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), which aims to counter the trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the region and strengthens the protection of migrants' rights. BMM aims at supporting the countries of the Horn of Africa region, in enhancing their cooperation and the adoption of common approaches to improve migration management, with a focus on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa. The project is designed to respond to the needs identified by partner countries taking their priorities as a basis for the project activities. 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).

BMM's second phase 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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