



Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme in Kenya

General context

Kenya is one of the main hubs for all types of migration in the region. The country hosts some one million migrants, mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia, and over 570,000 refugees and asylum seekers (UN, 2022).

In 2016, the European Union and Germany established the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme. Now in its third phase, the programme aims to enable national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region using a human rights-based approach.

BMM's approach and activities

BMM focuses on three components: migration governance, strengthening effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling and the protection of vulnerable migrants. Jointly implemented by CIVIPOL, GIZ, IOM and UNODC, BMM maximises the impact of activities through global expertise and integrated and comprehensive local solutions. GIZ provides overall coordination. Regionally, BMM works in close coordination with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU).



Project name	Better Migration Management Programme
Political Partner in Kenya	Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government
Partner countries	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda
Duration	April 2016 to September 2025
Implementing Partners in Kenya	CIVIPOL, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Expertise France and the Italian Department of Public Security were also implementing partners in phase I. GIZ heads the implementing partnership.

In Kenya, BMM partners with a number of stakeholders, such as the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), the Counter Trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and civil society organisations (CSO).

Building on the results of Phase I and II, BMM III focuses on consolidating an integrated regional and sustainable approach to migration management.

Implemented by

Migration governance

BMM supports the NCM in its role as an inter-agency coordination body for migration-related issues. Workshops and training courses are held to improve its functionality, reporting and planning. The NCM's capacity to share, protect, analyse and use data for policy development is being strengthened through data management training.

At the request of the Directorate of Immigration Services, BMM contributed to establishing the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS), which provides training that combine academic expertise and practical skills. Since its launch in 2018, through cooperation with Maastricht University and the University of Nairobi, over 80 government officials from IGAD Member States have studied towards the Post-Graduate Diploma in Migration Studies. Students return to their sending institutions with broadened knowledge of migration, improved skills and strong regional networks.

Effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling

The Kenyan Government has made significant efforts to combat trafficking and to reduce the harm caused by smuggling and trafficking in persons, according to the United States *Trafficking in Persons Report 2022*. Measures include enhanced investigation and prosecution of trafficking crimes and better protection of victims. Kenya has legislation on human trafficking, specifically in the Counter-Trafficking in Person Act 2010 and a comprehensive national referral mechanism, facilitating the referral of victims of trafficking to suitable protection services.

The country introduced new regulations for private labour recruitment agencies and launched the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU) to strengthen law enforcement capacity in the fight against human trafficking. BMM has supported the Kenyan Government in implementing these measures effectively.

The programme's comprehensive approach to building capacity has strengthened cooperation across agencies on facilitating safe migration, prosecuting trafficking crimes and protecting victims.

To increase the effectiveness of institutions involved in the fight against human trafficking, BMM has built the capacity of investigators and prosecutors to cooperate on trafficking cases. Improved information sharing and cross-border cooperation has facilitated the integrated management of Kenya's border (around 4,000 km). The role of the Kenya

National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) in protecting the rights of migrants has been strengthened. A programme including comprehensive training, the development of standard operating procedures, equipment and the strengthening of cooperation structures ensures that perpetrators of trafficking crimes are prosecuted, and victims are protected.

Protection

In cooperation with the Counter-Trafficking in Persons (CTiP) Secretariat and civil society organisations (CSOs), BMM provides training for relevant governmental and non-governmental actors on the national referral mechanism to facilitate the referral of migrants to appropriate services, such as shelter, legal aid, medical services and psychosocial support.

BMM has worked with CSOs and the CTiP Secretariat to make the protection of victims part of established procedures in rescue operations and the prosecution of trafficking crimes. Kenya has adopted a comprehensive approach to addressing human trafficking, with joint training and simulations for all the agencies involved.

As many of these services are provided by civil society actors, BMM is implementing a capacity building programme for CSOs and facilitates the Regional CSO Forum on Safe and Fair Migration, which comprises over 80 CSOs. In 2022, BMM supported a regional mapping of trafficking and vulnerable migrants' routes. The findings provide valuable collective information on human trafficking routes and crucial insights into trafficking hotspots, modes of transport used and types of exploitation. This further facilitates networking and capacity building among CSOs nationally and regionally.

Results of BMM (April 2016 - September 2022)



4,618 representatives of government departments supported in improving the coordinated management of migration and strengthening national migration policies, legislation and cross-border cooperation.



177 capacity building measures for **3,103** governmental and non-governmental actors implemented for the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, integrated border management and the referral of migrants to services.



60,100 individuals potentially reached through public awareness-raising activities on human trafficking and migrant rights.

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