



# Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme in South Sudan

## General context

South Sudan is the world's youngest country, becoming independent from Sudan in 2011. It is also demographically one of the youngest nations in the world, with roughly half of the people aged under 18. Being a country of origin, destination and transit, South Sudan hosts some 330,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Sudan, and the number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan is estimated at 2,3 millions (UNHCR 2023). Migration is often irregular which makes migrants vulnerable and increases their risk of experiencing economic exploitation and physical abuse.

South Sudan has taken steps to respond to the need for safe migration management. In 2017, its Cabinet transformed the National Aliens Committee into a National Coordination Committee responsible for coordinating with the relevant authorities on all activities related to migration. The country's first Comprehensive Migration Policy was developed and validated under the auspices of this Committee in 2019. It fosters a whole-of-government approach to migration management by including cross-thematic areas, such as the legal and institutional framework on free movement and border management, labour migration and forced migration.

## Better Migration Management Horn of Africa



<b>Project name</b>	Better Migration Management Programme
<b>Political Partner in South Sudan</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>Duration</b>	April 2016 to September 2025
<b>Partner countries</b>	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda
<b>Implementing Partners in South Sudan</b>	International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

South Sudan's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation have completed the procedures for pre-accession for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols but have not yet signed the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. The authorities have held meetings on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Implemented by

The Better Migration Management (BMM) programme aims to enable national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and to effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings (THB) and the smuggling of migrants (SoM) within and from the Horn of Africa region using a human rights-based approach. In South Sudan BMM accompanies its partners in reforming policies and legislation, improving infrastructure and enhancing cross-border cooperation, and provides capacity building. Activities are implemented in three components: migration governance, strengthening effective institutions to address THB and SoM, and the protection of vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking.

## Migration governance

BMM supported the National Coordination Committee to develop a Comprehensive Migration Policy, which is now being transformed into a statutory framework. In 2022 a border security strategy was endorsed, including the implementation of migratory laws regarding border management, free movement of people, labour migration and forced migration.

BMM supports the National Bureau of Statistics in improving its digital management of migration data and in drafting a Migration Data Sharing and Data Protection Protocol to guide ministries on managing, sharing and protecting statistics relevant for migration.

BMM also supports the Counter Trafficking Taskforce in implementing the UNTOC and the Palermo Protocol. The latter is the UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in human beings, supplementing the UNTOC.

## Effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling

BMM strengthens institutional cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the judiciary on THB and SoM. Investigators and prosecutors receive training on their roles within criminal procedures. Prosecutors and judges acquire enhanced knowledge of handling cases of trafficking, with a special focus on the differing needs and interests of migrating men and boys, women and girls. The programme also promotes meetings of regional law enforcement experts on crime intelligence, threat assessments and exchange on cross-border crime.

Officials from the border authorities and immigration services were trained on integrated border management to increase cooperation between all the authorities involved – at national level and cross-border. BMM continues with a training for trainers on the Manual for Integrated Border Management and the standard operation procedures on cross border cooperation and exit and entry procedures. For the national police training institute curricula, on-boarding material and in-service training on THB and SoM will be designed.

## Protection

The programme strengthens civil society organisations (CSOs) to improve their protection and support services for migrants and victims of trafficking as well as their engagement in the areas of human rights, democratic principles and livelihood. BMM facilitates the participation of South Sudanese CSOs in the Regional CSO Forum to Promote Safe and Fair Migration, which brings together around 80 CSOs from partner countries in the Horn of Africa with a view to fostering cooperation and exchange.

The programme will support South Sudan in developing and implementing a National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which aims to regulate a structured cooperation of all actors involved in the protection of migrants and making the services more efficient and effective. Child protection mechanisms will be developed, including standard operating procedures for the best interest of the child determination following the example in Ethiopia.

## Results of BMM (April 2016 – September 2022)



**1,579** representatives of state departments supported in improving the coordinated management of migration and strengthening national migration policies, legislation and cross-border cooperation



**24** capacity building measures for **582** state and non-state actors implemented in the field of investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, integrated border management, and the referral of migrants to services



**880,000** individuals potentially reached through public awareness-raising activities on human trafficking and migrant rights

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