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Better Migration Management  
Horn of Africa



# 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, the country hosts some 330,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Sudan. The number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan is estimated at 2,3 million (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 co-ordinating 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 mo-

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

vement and border management, labour migration and forced migration.

South Sudan's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation have successfully acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). They 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.

Implemented by



The authorities have held meetings on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

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 in need.

## Migration governance

BMM supported the National Coordination Committee to develop a National Migration Policy, which is now being transformed into a statutory framework. The border security strategy was endorsed in 2022 and is strengthened through training of trainers. The strategy outlines 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.

South Sudan acceded to the UNTOC in October 2023. Building on this success, BMM supports the Counter Trafficking Taskforce in implementing the Palermo Protocol, which 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 migrant men and boys, women and girls. The programme also promotes meetings of regional law enforcement experts on crime intelligence, threat assessments and exchanges on cross-border crime. Officials from

the border authorities and immigration services were trained in Integrated Border Management (IBM) to increase cooperation between all the authorities involved, both nationally and across borders. BMM continues with training for trainers on the manual for IBM and the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) on cross-border cooperation, as well as exit and entry procedures. For the national police training institute, curricula, onboarding material and in-service training on THB and SoM will be designed.

The South Sudan National Human Rights Commission and its counterparts from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Somaliland are part of the National Human Rights Institutions Network (NHRIs). With BMM's support, they participated in a regional meeting on migration and human rights, and hold regular online meetings to enhance regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

## 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 and livelihood support. BMM facilitates the participation of South Sudanese CSOs in training and the Regional CSO Forum to Promote Safe and Fair Migration by the East and Horn of Africa Anti-Trafficking (EHAAT) network, which brings together around 100 CSOs from the BMM partner countries to foster cooperation and exchange.

The programme supports South Sudan in developing and implementing a National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which aims to provide structured cooperation between all actors involved in the protection of migrants, making services more efficient and effective. Child protection mechanisms will be developed, including SOPs for the Best Interest of the Child determination following the example in Ethiopia.

## Results of BMM (April 2016 – September 2023)



**1,639** stakeholders supported in improving the coordinated management of migration and strengthening national migration policies, legislation and cross-border cooperation



**24** capacity building measures for **581** state and non-state actors implemented in the field of investigation and prosecution of THB, integrated border management, and the referral of migrants



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

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