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Better Migration Management  
Horn of Africa



Newsletter March – October 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.

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, like the steps taken in Sudan to protect migrant domestic workers (picture). All stories have been published on the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) [website](#). Find more general information about BMM and its initiatives at the end of this newsletter.

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## Diverted by COVID-19 but still on track

The BMM programme puts a strong focus on trainings, workshops and networking events – face-to-face activities that have been rendered impossible by lockdowns and social-distancing measures due to the ongoing pandemic. As a result, the implementing partners had to rethink their strategies to implement the BMM objectives in many places. Notwithstanding, BMM was carried on throughout the pandemic and, beyond that, has continued to achieve results.

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## Results (October 2019 – September 2020)



**198** representatives of state departments supported to improve the coordinated management of migration and to strengthen national migration policies, legislation and cross-border cooperation.



**864** state and non-state representatives participated in activities to improve the services and the access to information for vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking.



**10** capacity-building measures for **247** state and non-state actors implemented in the field of investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, integrated border management, and referral of migrants to services.



**16.1 million** persons reached through public awareness raising activities on human trafficking and migrant rights.

## Highlights

### Ethiopia: New border points opened

#### BMM supported Ethiopia in establishing new official points of entry on its borders with Djibouti and Kenya

In BMM's efforts to enable safe, orderly, and regular migration, Ethiopia was supported in the significant step of opening two new points of entry. In September 2020, the Ethiopian-Djiboutian border was equipped with a third border point close to the town of Balho. The 850 km long border to Kenya was likewise supplemented with a third point of entry in Suftu in October 2020. During the inauguration in Balho, Mr. Tamiru Genbeto, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Immigration, Nationality and Vital Events Agency (INVEA), described the purpose of the border posts: 'Combating human trafficking and smuggling along the Eastern migration route and improving economic relations between Ethiopia and Djibouti.'

BMM addresses human trafficking and smuggling of migrants



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The Eastern route leads from the Horn of Africa to the countries of the Gulf States – with Djibouti as the main transit country.



Now inaugurated, the border post in Balho is also equipped to implement the necessary inspections to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Photo: GIZ

Out of necessity, many migrants travel irregularly, that is, without a visa or valid papers, making them easy victims for the extensive and entrenched criminal networks along the route. Victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants identified by officials at the new border posts in Balho and Suftu will be referred to appropriate service providers to get the best assist according to their needs. Cases of human trafficking will be investigated and traffickers prosecuted. Find the whole story [here](#).

## Sudan: First steps taken to protect migrant domestic workers

**With the support of BMM, the country advances the protection of vulnerable migrants, especially victims of forced labour like Selam from Ethiopia**

A vulnerable young woman is led on by false promises and finds herself in a situation of exploitation and abuse. The story of Selam (real name withheld), who migrated from Ethiopia to Sudan in search of a job after her father died when she was 26, is similar to that of many other migrants without professional working skills. 'The bait is always the promise of official working papers, but they never materialize,' explains Negasi Teferi, a member of Ethiopian Community Association (ECA). As a result, migrants stay with an irregular status, making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The association runs a safe house, where medical care, psychosocial support and vocational training are provided as well as assistance with voluntary return to Ethiopia. This is where Selam found help as well.

Organisations such as ECA are at the heart of a so-called referral system whose development BMM promotes. The system maps the courses of action and responsibilities in the referral of migrant domestic workers to direct them to service providers that can best meet their individual needs – such as shelter or bureaucratic support. In addition, BMM improves the capacities of service providers such as civil society organisations and increases the availability of information for domestic workers like Selam. The young woman received eight months of vocational training at the ECA safe house and was assisted in returning to her country voluntarily.

There, she was reunited with her family and is now running her own leather crafts business that keeps food on her family's table. Find the whole story [here](#).

## #COVID19AffectsMigrants

### Civil society organisations (CSOs) draw attention to the situation of migrants in the pandemic

'Vulnerabilities have deepened in the wake of COVID-19, especially for informal workers and migrants. They are more exposed to violence, trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation than ever,' Smita Nagi from the Somali CSO IIDA explains. The regional anti-trafficking CSO network, supported by BMM, developed an awareness brief to draw attention to these effects. CSOs collected trends in different countries and developed recommendations for other CSOs on how they can meet migrants' increased needs for assistance in times of COVID-19 and restricted movement. The network the brief available on Twitter under the hashtag [#COVID19AffectsMigrants](#). Find the whole story [here](#).

BMM fosters regional cooperation to facilitate migrant protection and support

## Uganda: Another milestone to counter human trafficking

### The country introduces measures to improve the investigation and prosecution and the support of victims of trafficking

On the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July 2020), the Ministry of Internal Affairs has launched the second Uganda National Action Plan for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, and national referral guidelines for the management of victims of trafficking. This marks another step the government takes to face the challenges of human trafficking Uganda encounters as a country from, through and into which men, women and children are trafficked.



Obiga Mario Kania, Ugandan Minister of State for Internal Affairs, signed the National Action Plan during the event. Photo: IOM

Ugandan workers who are caught by human traffickers to be exploited in the Middle East or children from other African countries and India who are trafficked to Uganda



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for agricultural labour and commercial sexual exploitation are just two examples of human trafficking the country witnesses. The National Action Plan addresses various forms of exploitation including forced labour, child marriage, and sex trafficking. It provides for structures and systems to prevent these activities and assist victims, for instance through curricula and trainings to improve investigations and prosecution. The plan also promotes cooperation between the different actors at both national and transnational levels. Find the whole story [here](#).

## Kenya: Advancing cross-border referrals

### The national referral system facilitates the support of victims of human trafficking, such as 13-year old Aisha from Uganda

Aisha (real name withheld) was only 13 years old when she was brought to the Candle of Hope Foundation. The civil society organisation raises awareness for human trafficking and helps victims like Aisha. According to the Trafficking in Persons Report 2019 of the US Department of State, there was a significant increase in cases of human trafficking like hers in Kenya from 2018 to 2019. Assisting these victims is a complex task that involves various actors, often crossing national borders. Aisha's father had smuggled her to Nairobi after the death of her mother in Uganda and had raped and exploited her sexually on several occasions. Neighbours rescued her and brought her to the police. They referred her to the civil society organisation (CSO) Candle of Hope Foundation which takes care of victims of trafficking. The foundation has good relationship to other CSOs in the region and contacted the Ugandan CSO Dwelling Places to further assist with Aisha's case.

**BMM supports assistance and protection for victims of trafficking**

The cooperation was made possible through Kenya's national referral system, whose setup began in 2016 supported by BMM. The system enables first responders like immigration officials to identify individual needs of vulnerable migrants and refer them to the appropriate service providers. 'We liaise with the Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat, which links us to accredited civil society organisations, which provide services such as shelters.

These organisations also provide crucial information that is useful in the process of assisting the victim to obtain justice,' explains Carlos Maluta, Deputy Director of the Kenyan Immigration Services.

Aisha's return to Uganda has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile Dwelling Places has found a shelter for her with another Ugandan CSO where she will receive psychological care and vocational training. Aisha's case was the first cross-border cooperation between the CSOs involved. 'This was a priceless



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experience of a cross-border referral from Kenya to Uganda,' Damon Wamara, Country Director of Dwelling Places, emphasises. Find the whole story [here](#).

## First postgraduate study course on migration completed

### With the graduation of its first and introduction of its second cohort, the Kenya Institute for Migration Studies (KIMS) successfully completed its first year

What are human rights challenges for Kenyan workers in the Gulf Region? What effects does forced migration have on the environment in Uganda? And what is the role of the Sudanese government within the Khartoum Process? These and other questions informed the theses of the 27 graduates who completed the first postgraduate study course on migration at the KIMS in Nairobi in May 2020. Another 23 officials followed in their footsteps and started the one-year academic programme in September 2020.

The KIMS is the regional centre of excellence for migration studies, affiliated with the Department of Immigration Services and hosted by the University of Nairobi. The study course was established with the support of BMM in 2019 and with the objective to improve and harmonise the migration management in the Horn of Africa region. The institute offers training for migration practitioners from all IGAD member states in a programme that combines academic excellence and valuable practical skills. Find the whole story [here](#).



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## 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](#).

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.