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Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Newsletter March 2018

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This is the fourth issue of the BMM Newsletter on progress and developments in the implementation of the Better Migration Management Programme (BMM). This newsletter aims at providing stories, news, and information to give an insight into BMM's activities.

Background and Conceptual Framework

Better Migration Management (BMM) is a regional development cooperation programme established under the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#), which aims to address the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. The goal of BMM is to support the countries of the Horn of Africa region, in enhancing their cooperation and adoption of common approaches to improve migration management, with a focus on trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa. The programme is designed to respond to the needs identified by partner countries taking their priorities as a basis for the definition of programme activities. Key to the programme is the alignment with existing mechanisms and initiatives of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

BMM is funded for a duration of 3 years (April 2016 to March 2019) by the EUTF with EUR 40 Mil. and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with EUR 6 Mil.

BMM implementation is currently taking place in eight partner countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda). Egypt and Tunisia may be included at a later stage in activities of a regional nature. BMM is maintaining contact and exchange with the South Sudanese Government at the level of the Khartoum Process to discuss possible opportunities for engagement. Due to the political sensitivities, every activity is implemented in close coordination with the EU Delegation. A more comprehensive overview can be found on the [GIZ](#) and the [EU EuropeAid](#) website including a full [Description of the Action](#).

The BMM programme structure has been established in all partner countries. There are three regional hubs with project offices namely: Khartoum (for Sudan and Eritrea), Addis Ababa (for Ethiopia and Djibouti) and Nairobi (for Kenya and Somalia). The implementing partners, British Council (BC), Civipol, Expertise France (EF), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Italian Department of Public Security (IDoPS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have elaborated operational plans in close cooperation with the partner governments, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), and local implementing partners in most countries. More detailed information can be found in this newsletter and the [Annual Report 2017](#).

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Latest news

Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, and Somalia: International Migrants Day

'Making migrants voices heard' was one of the themes of the events organised by BMM on 18 December 2017. On the occasion of the UN International Migrants Day festivals, role plays, information fairs, film screenings, panel discussions, and a football match have taken place to highlight the human rights of migrants.

'Today, the day allowed us to remind the people that migrants are human beings and that they are here for a legitimate and vital reason' Mohamed Aboukader said during the BMM event in Tadjourah (**Djibouti**). The Vice-President of the Regional Council added that the increase of the migratory flow is often a burden for local communities. 'But I hope that our legendary hospitality will recover despite the difficulties.' In Tadjourah, 1,500 people watched the football match between a team of the local Technical High School against a team exclusively composed of recently arrived migrants. Locals and migrants cheered together and started talking, thereby creating a better understanding of each other. In Djibouti (City) two movies on migration were screened at the Institut Français. These movies were part of the IOM Global Migration Film Festival 2017, which featured films from over 30 countries covering the promise and the challenges of migration. The films gave an insight into the fates of irregular migrants.



1,500 people watched the football match in Tadjourah (Djibouti). Photo: Samatar Natalis/GIZ

Fates were also the focus of an event in **Sudan**. When talking about migration, people usually think of men, but children are also highly affected. There are 185 children living in Shagarab Refugee Camp in Kassala, who either travelled alone, lost their parents or have been left behind. BMM hosted a festival where the minors could express themselves through songs, role-plays, drama and dancing. Some of them also advised other children on the risk of migration.

In Khartoum, female migrants and local female students celebrated at the Ahfad University for women. The BMM event raised awareness of irregular migration and celebrated diversity with numerous cultural performances, such as a role-play, a movie screening from the IOM Global Film Festival 2017, and a debate about 'Irregular migration from Africa to Europe – is it worth the risk?'. This was attended by 400 people.



Some children told the story of their journey in a puppet show. Photo: Wasil Engel/GIZ



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Further BMM events appealed to young people to explore regular migration opportunities and obtaining legal work. In Hargeisa (**Somalia**), local entrepreneurs shared information about local job opportunities. A representative from Somaliland's leading internet provider SomCable, as well as returned Somalilanders, and Chevening Scholarship recipients shared their success stories. Discussions on skills, culture, and business infrastructure in Somaliland captured the attention of the approximately 150 guests.



In Hargeisa (Somalia) migrants performed dances from their cultures. Photo: Mary-Sanyu Osire / UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017

During a panel discussion in Nairobi, **Kenya**, young people shared their experiences in working or studying overseas. Representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and IOM gave their insight, while representatives from ten countries (e.g. Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, Turkey) and organisations (e.g. AISEC, British Council, DAAD, Erasmus) presented information and promotional material on job and study opportunities, to an audience of approximately 130 people. Additional information was provided in the brochure 'Jijenge, Connecting Kenyan Youth to Global Opportunities', produced by BMM, which is available online:

<http://pawa254.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/GIZ-BMM-International-Migrants-Day-Brochure.pdf>

Opening of the expanded Garowe Airport, Puntland State

The newly completed Garowe International Airport opened its doors on 8 January 2018 in the capital of Puntland state in Somalia. BMM supported the renovation efforts led by the Puntland authorities related to border management and immigration to meet international standards.

Through training activities, which will commence in April 2018, BMM aims to increase the immigration and border management capacities of staff in data management, document examination, human rights, and interviewing techniques to uphold international standards in the sense of a secure and humane migration.

BMM will introduce IOM's Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at the airport to manage passenger information. This information is critical to a well-functioning border management, as it enables immigration authorities to analyse migration trends. This will improve services to facilitate the movement of people, to identify crime and also to support migrants. MIDAS is globally operational in over 19 countries.



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Kenya: Flagship course on migration management

Kenya's government has made efforts to establish a national Migration Training Institute to improve both national and regional migration management. BMM supports the development of the curriculum for a post-graduate diploma course on migration studies, which will be introduced at the institute later in 2018.

With the objective to strengthen the capacity of institutions and agencies responsible for migration and border management, BMM has supported the development of the course since 2017. The programme conducted a training needs-assessment as well as study tours for Kenyan immigration officers to the African Capacity Building Centre in Tanzania, the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and the Maastricht University in the Netherlands to exchange trends, ideas, challenges, and best practice in migration management and training.

Representatives from the Kenya School of Government, the Department of Immigration, University of Maastricht, BMM, and a number of subject-matter experts attended a curriculum development workshop on 12-16 February 2018. They adapted the curriculum provided by the University of Maastricht into the Kenyan and regional context.

Currently, there is little formal training for immigration officers beyond their induction training including a practical skills-based training specific to their particular position. The officers learn mostly on the job. As a result, many staff lack the strategic understanding of the complex migration environment and the emerging challenges associated with irregular migration and transnational crime, such as smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings.

The post-graduate diploma course will start later in 2018 with a first intake of around 20 students. It will cover an introduction to migration studies, legal issues of migration, forced migration, irregular migration, diaspora and diaspora engagement, security and border management, research methods in migration, effects of migration in the origin and the destination country, data and information management, migration policy and governance, leadership for migration practitioners as well as a research project. The course will be open to officials from the Department of Immigration as well as other government officials from Kenya and other IGAD member states.



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Djibouti: Help on wheels

In the City of Obock, the Ministry of Health of Djibouti launched a mobile patrol programme to assist migrants in all five regions of the country on 12 December 2017. The programme is part of BMM and will help to provide medical screenings and treatment for stranded migrants along the migratory route.

Djibouti's Minister of the Interior, Hassan Omar Mohamed gave the opening address, 'Djibouti is a land of asylum and destination for many vulnerable migrants but also a country of bi-directional movements.' More than 300 migrants, mainly from the Horn of Africa, transit through Djibouti every day. These migrants continue to cross Djibouti to Yemen and other Gulf countries due to limited economic opportunities, instability and environmental degradation in their homeland. The Minister stressed that Djibouti is destined to preserve the dignity of everyone and to guarantee the same value to all, as human rights are indisputable and universal.

The mobile patrol operates twice a week. 'We cover the region from Obock to Dalay Af, and from Obock to Khor Angar' said Dr. Aden Warsama, a doctor at the Centre Medico Hospitalier in Obock and part of the patrol team. 'We assist migrants on the road by first giving them water because most of them suffering from dehydration.' Those who present serious or critical medical conditions are referred to a local hospital in the region where they will receive medical care. 'Beside the basic health support, the patrols also prevent any possible disease outbreak such as acute watery diarrhea and others, especially in a region like Obock, which is prone to these public health risks' Dr. Warsama added. Until mid-February 2018 the mobile unit has already assisted 16 migrants.

In Obock, migrants seeking assistance come to the Migration Response Centre (MRC) and are provided with food, water, and medical treatment. BMM has built a new clinic at the MRC, which was inaugurated on 18 March 2018.



Sudan: First stop – first aid

Especially irregular migrants face numerous challenges on their journey, often being dehydrated, bitten by scorpions or snakes, injured, infected or abused by smugglers or human traffickers. BMM aims to improve the assistance for these migrants at the borders in Sudan by supporting appropriate training for first responders.

Since the end of October 2017, more than one hundred officials from customs and immigration



In Dongola, the participants of the First Aid training exercised how to medicate wounds. Photo: Khaled Sirekhatem/GIZ



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in Sudan were trained in First Aid. As the first responders to migrants, these officials are now able to provide them with immediate assistance and medical help. The trainings in Kassala and Northern State were conducted by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and supported by BMM. They consisted of theoretical lectures and practical sessions, in which the participants simulated emergency situations in outdoor conditions. 'We even had a professional make-up specialist who showed the participants how snakebites and bone fractures look like', Sami Hadi Adam said. Since October 2017, the manager of the Northern State branch of SRCS has organised all six training events and knows that 'first responders have to know how these injuries might look like'. Through the theoretical part, the training also raised awareness about the dangers and difficulties migrants face their journey. Upon successful completion, the participants were provided with first-aid kits and booklets.



The officials from customs and immigration were trained by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) Photos: Khaled Sirelkhateem/GIZ



Ethiopia: Protection of children



BMM, the local NGOs Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE), and Tiemeret Le Hiwot Ethiopia (TLHE) agreed to co-operate on child protection. Both NGOs provide support in three regional areas across the country as well as in Addis Ababa to vulnerable migrants, particularly unaccompanied and separated migrant children. BMM will support their activities on prevention of trafficking of children transiting through Addis Ababa. Furthermore, BMM will sustain the set-up of temporary accommodation and drop-in centres for minors and other vulnerable migrants, particularly women, in major migration corridors. Intercepted children will also be provided with accommodation, counseling, and family reunification services.