



Better Migration Management (BMM) programme in Eritrea

General context

Eritrea is a young nation in the northern part of the Horn of Africa. It gained independence in 1991 after 30 years of armed conflict with Ethiopia. Following a period of peace, further border conflicts erupted between the two countries before a peace agreement was signed in 2018, restoring prospects of socio-economic development. Eritrea's population is estimated at 3.5 million (UN, 2020).

Eritreans, particularly the young generation, are travelling abroad in search of a better life and work opportunities. Most Eritreans leaving the country on a permanent basis enter foreign countries without the necessary documents. Their irregular status makes them vulnerable to trafficking, particularly from non-authorised transit camps. Many are kidnapped for ransom, forced into exploitative labour or subjected to physical abuse.

Eritrea is a member of the Khartoum Process, a regional dialogue for collaboration on migration between the European Union, its Member States and countries of origin, transit and destination in

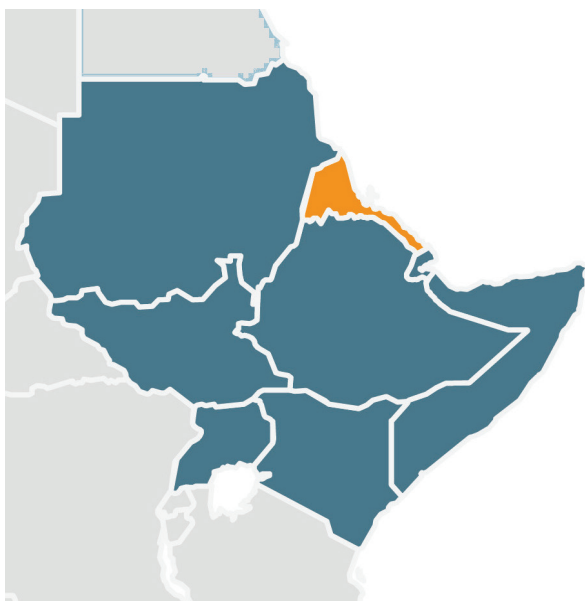
Better Migration Management Horn of Africa



Project name	Better Migration Management programme
Political Partner in Eritrea	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Duration	April 2016 to September 2022
Implementing Partners in Eritrea	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). GIZ heads the implementing partnership

the wider Horn of Africa region. The Process is initially focusing on addressing trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. Eritrea has taken steps to stem transnational human trafficking. The Government ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in 2014.

Implemented by



In 2016, the European Union and Germany established the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme, which responds to needs identified by the African members of the Khartoum Process. The project is being implemented in close collaboration with the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). BMM aims to curb trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the region and to help strengthen migrants' rights to protection – despite the many challenges related to security issues in the region as well as the ongoing pandemic, which has led to some delays in project implementation.

In 2019, BMM facilitated the first regional workshop on strengthening international and regional police cooperation in Eastern Africa in Eritrea to address transnational organised crime. The workshop was attended by senior criminal justice officials from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, as well as officials from Interpol's regional office for Eastern Africa and IGAD. The event highlighted the importance of enhancing legal frameworks and arrangements governing joint operations and investigations, including digital and financial investigations, in line with UNTOC.

The programme provided government actors with training to counter transnational networks engaged in trafficking and smuggling with a focus on the protection of victims of trafficking. Law enforcement officials have been trained to investigate and prosecute trafficking and smuggling cases, while representatives of the Ministry of Justice have been advised on the importance of criminal justice statistics and data collection.

Furthermore, BMM initiated a dialogue on migration

management in line with human rights standards between representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Information, the National Union of Eritrean Women and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students. An agreement was reached on the development of a national awareness-raising strategy and action plan proposed by the Eritrean Government.

All the activities were carried out in full compliance with EU requirements and its Member States' political approach to the state authorities of Eritrea.

BMM's approach and objectives

The overall objective of the programme is to enable national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and to effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region by using a human rights-based approach. Activities are implemented in three interconnected components: migration governance, effective institutions to address human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, protection of vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking. Based on progress made in phase I, it focuses on consolidating a regional, holistic approach to migration management and on ensuring its sustainability beyond the duration of the programme.

BMM's implementation partners are cooperating with other relevant international initiatives such as EU-



State and non-state actors are supported with workshops and training on migration-related issues. ©GIZ

funded projects and other donors to build synergies and avoid duplications.

Migration governance

The programme continues to support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice in implementing the UNTOC Protocol against the



Law enforcement officials receive training to improve investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases. ©UNODC

Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. It provides continuous advice at a policy, legal and technical level.

Effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling

BMM is improving the effectiveness of institutions in implementing updated migration policies and legislation. The programme strengthens inter-institutional cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the judiciary on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Investigators and prosecutors receive training on their relevant roles and responsibilities within criminal procedures. Prosecutors and judges are gaining enhanced knowledge of how to take legal action against human traffickers and smugglers of migrants.

Protection

BMM improves the protection of victims of trafficking in Eritrea. The programme supports the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in developing and implementing a national strategy and action plan to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Results of BMM (April 2016 – September 2020)



170 representatives of state departments were supported in improving the coordinated management of migration and strengthening national migration policies, legislation and cross-border cooperation.



5 capacity building measures for **90** state and non-state actors were implemented in the field of investigation and prosecution of human trafficking.

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