



Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme in the Horn of Africa

General context

The countries in the Horn of Africa region are the main places of origin and transit but are also a destination for people on the move. The number of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and internally displaced people from the Horn of Africa is estimated at around 19 million, with migrants totalling approximately 5.7 million. Most migrants move within the region.

Many migrants travel irregularly, that is, without a visa or valid papers, usually out of necessity. In addition, they often lack economic means and have no access to justice. This makes them particularly vulnerable to being trafficked, seeking offers from smugglers or falling into the hands of other criminal networks that exploit people for profit. Trafficking in human beings is an industry estimated to generate around 150 billion US dollars annually, making it one of the fastest-growing transnational criminal activities, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Migration is an age-old global phenomenon, but the lack of migration-friendly policies, legislation, infrastructure, regional and cross-border



Project name	Better Migration Management Programme
Partner Countries	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda (phase I and II: Sudan)
Volume	EUR 122 mio. (EUR 105 mio. EU / EUR 17 mio. BMZ)
Duration	April 2016 to September 2025
Implementing Partners	British Council, CIVIPOL, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Expertise France and the Italian Department of Public Security were also implementing partners in phase I. GIZ heads the implementing partnership.

cooperation and knowledge hampers efforts to manage safe and legal migration, counter smuggling and trafficking and provide the necessary support and protection to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

BMM's approach and activities

The Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme, commissioned by the German Government and co-financed by the European Union (EU), was established in 2016 to respond to needs identified by the African Member States of the Khartoum Process. The process is a regional dialogue for collaboration on migration between the EU, its Member States and countries of origin, transit and destination in the wider Horn of Africa region, with an initial focus on addressing trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants.

The objective of BMM is to enable national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region by applying a human rights-based approach.

Activities are carried out under three complementary components: migration governance, strengthening effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling and protection for vulnerable migrants.

Jointly implemented by the British Council, CIVIPOL, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, IOM and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), BMM maximises the impact of activities through global expertise and integrated and comprehensive local solutions. Phase III focuses on consolidating a regional, holistic approach to migration management and on ensuring its sustainability beyond the duration of the programme. BMM works in coordination with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU).

Migration governance

BMM supports national governments in developing and improving national migration policies and frameworks to manage migration at a regional, national and local level, for example, by strengthening National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs). These inter-institutional bodies include representatives from the ministries concerned (Justice, Interior Affairs, Health, Education, Labour and Social Services, etc.), civil society organisations (CSOs) and local communities dealing with migration issues. They act in a similar way to task forces to jointly develop, evaluate and coordinate appropriate measures at the national and subnational level. This coordinated approach is a prerequisite for successful migration management which includes the reform of rule-of-law institutions to enable them to counter trafficking in human beings and reinforce support structures for the sustainable protection of vulnerable migrants and victims of human trafficking. The programme supports the NCMs in three areas: developing action plans and strategies, collecting data to analyse migration trends and determine the required response and identifying and responding to training needs.



Through training to officials from border authorities and immigration services, safe and regular movement of people within the country and across its borders is improved. ©GIZ/Bebe Joel

BMM also assists governments in developing national legislation and policies on migration in line with relevant international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). Support is provided, in particular, for legislation on countering trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants and for regulation of the foreign recruitment sector to prevent companies from hiring people for precarious or exploitative jobs abroad, especially in the Gulf states.

Furthermore, BMM promotes cross-border cooperation to develop joint solutions, structures and procedures, such as the introduction of legal and protected labour migration for Ethiopians to South Sudan and joint measures to counter human trafficking in the Kenyan-Ugandan border area.

Effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling

BMM improves the effectiveness of institutions that implement migration policies and legislation, for example, by increasing the quality of national and cross-border cooperation between law enforcement, judicial and other governmental and non-governmental actors in coordination with other regional initiatives and in line with international obligations and standards. This includes developing and implementing curricula for universities and law enforcement training institutions, producing training materials and designing training courses for law enforcement agencies to improve the quality of the investigation and prosecution of trafficking and smuggling cases. BMM also promotes the adoption of standard operating procedures to serve as a practical step-by-step guide for investigation and prosecution, including cooperation between different actors, such as police and prosecutors.

The programme increases the capacities of first responders from the police, CSOs, border authorities and immigration services to identify victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants and refer them to relevant protection and assistance services. It supports Referral Systems that facilitate close coordination between first responders and

government and civil society service providers, such as social workers, child protection officers and safe houses for women, with a view to ensuring the safety of victims from the early stages of the investigation through to the end of the trial.

BMM supports national human rights institutions and other oversight bodies in fulfilling their mandate to monitor, report, address and follow up on human rights violations and other exploitative abuses of victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants. Members of human rights institutions receive training on migrants' rights and on complaint mechanisms for human rights violations, with a particular focus on women and children.

Protection

BMM enhances assistance and protection for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants at the local, national and regional level. It partners with CSOs, who are often the first responders to the needs of vulnerable migrants, providing shelter, medical and psychosocial care, child protection, counselling, etc. The programme promoted the establishment of the Regional CSO Forum to Promote Safe and Fair Migration, which now includes around 80 CSOs concerned with protection and prevention in the partner countries. The CSOs receive training to strengthen their capacities, cooperation and their role within referral mechanisms, which seek to direct migrants in need to appropriate protection

facilities and services. The programme supports the establishment of networks of governmental and non-governmental actors, law enforcement agencies and other service providers for implementation. It also supports mechanisms for service providers to give feedback to policy-makers on specific and acute protection and assistance gaps in the region. In 2022, the CSO network launched a mapping of trafficking routes which provides relevant data to enhance protection based on needs.

To increase and facilitate access to information on essential services for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, BMM mapped and vetted services offered by more than 300 providers across Ethiopia, Kenya, the region of Somaliland, Sudan and Djibouti. This information is available on an online platform. In addition, the programme continues to assist communities, governments and non-governmental stakeholders in launching awareness raising strategies that speak to the needs and aspirations of migrants and potential migrants and draw attention to the risks of trafficking and opportunities for legal migration.

BMM also supports sustainable solutions for victims of trafficking, vulnerable migrants and returnees. To this end, it engages private, public and civil society actors in identifying economic opportunities, including other EU and bilaterally funded livelihood programmes and economic initiatives.

BMM results (April 2016 - September 2022)



22,754 governmental and non-governmental actors supported to strengthen coordinated migration management, national migration policies, legislation and cross-border cooperation.



584 capacity building measures for **11,616** governmental and non-governmental actors implemented in investigation and prosecution of trafficking, integrated border management and the referral of migrants.



49,856 vulnerables migrants and victims of trafficking directly and indirectly protected and supported.



54,8 million individuals potentially reached through awareness-raising activities on trafficking in human beings and migrants rights.

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