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Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Newsletter November 2017

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This is the third issue of the BMM Newsletter on progress and developments in the implementation of the Better Migration Management Programme (BMM). It 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 (EUTF – Horn of Africa Window). The goal of BMM is to support the countries of the Horn of Africa region to enhance their cooperation and to adopt 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 needs identified by the partner countries, taking their priorities as a starting point for the definition of programme activities. Key to the programme is the alignment with existing mechanisms and initiatives of the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

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

BMM implementation is taking place in eight partner countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda). Egypt and Tunisia may be included 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 is provided on the [GIZ Website](#) and the [EU EuropeAid website](#) including a full [Description of the Action](#).

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Latest Activities and Next Steps

The BMM programme structure is fully established in all partner countries, project offices are in place and local staff has been hired to follow up on the implementation in three regional hubs: 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 in the [Annual Report](#).

Highlights from the last months:



Kenya: Awareness of the ills of human trafficking

'Pendo came from a poor family in Tanzania. She knew very early that to get ahead she needed to work hard and going to school was not something she could dream about. This is why when someone came and told her that she could find some work across the border in Kenya she believed them. However, when she got there she realized that a lot of what she was promised was not true. She was overworked, abused and no one paid her. She was only 16.'

(Peno became a victim of Human Trafficking. Her story was shown with this quote of her on a poster at the exhibition)

The story of Pendo is one of the fates publicised on the occasion of the UN World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July in Nairobi. BMM, in cooperation with the Kenyan Counter-Trafficking in Persons Secretariat and with the support from IOM, the NGO HAART and creative experts from PAWA254 (an initiative of young social conscious artists and activists), organised and convened the exhibition. From 28-30 July 2017, the public photo exhibition in front of Nairobi's National Archives shared images of trafficking survivors and their stories with passers-by. The images were interspersed with infographics on human trafficking in Kenya, which aimed at delivering a better understanding of the challenges and highlighted mechanisms on how to protect oneself from becoming a victim. Approximately 4,000 people visited the exhibition, and a social media campaign accompanying it reached 484,700 people online.



Photo from the exhibition on human trafficking in Kenya.
Photo: HAART Kenya

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Research by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) shows that more than 20,000 people are trafficked through Kenya every year from neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan. In addition, trafficking within Kenya is exacerbated through child labour on farms, fishing and in private homes as houseboys and girls.

Curbing Trafficking in Persons is a responsibility shared by the government, civil society, and the international community. *'We each have a part in promoting sustainable legal safe migration and create awareness on the ills of human trafficking'*, Silke Hampson, the Regional BMM Coordinator for Kenya and Somalia said at the opening ceremony of the exhibition. BMM is conducting awareness-raising programmes to curb irregular migration and protect migrants with regards to alternative livelihood options, including safe migration to all partner countries.



Ethiopia: Victims as key witnesses to fight crime

Witness testimonies are essential to fight transnational crime such as human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Without reliable testimonies, the chances of successful investigations and prosecutions are extremely low and can result in cases not being followed up due to improper proceedings. However, witnesses are often, understandably, fearful of the consequences of participating in the investigation or prosecution process. At the same time, victims of trafficking are often not recognised as victims. They are often indiscriminately detained or deported as irregular migrants and therefore cannot testify, which limits effective prosecution.

Ethiopia enacted its witness protection legislation in 2010. So far, it has been strained due to the lack of know-how and capacity. A necessary institutional framework does not yet exist. To promote the development of Ethiopia's witness protection programme, BMM supported a Regional Witness Protection event hosted by UNODC in Addis Ababa on 25-26 September 2017. The meeting aimed at strengthening the cooperation and partnership between the Ethiopian Federal Attorney General's office and its counterparts in Rwanda, South Africa and Italy, and to exchange knowledge, best practices and awareness about witness protection in the region of Eastern and the Horn of Africa. For this event, BMM also facilitated the participation of representatives from Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda to initiate the discussion and an exchange on experiences in witness protection in the region. An expert in witness protection from the Italian Department of Public Security (IDoPS) provided insights into Italy's experience, based on several decades working against organised crime. At this meeting, the representatives of attending countries had a chance to discuss conditions, structures, processes, and experiences in witness protection in different contexts, which will be useful in the development of witness protection structure, and will be further supported through BMM.

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Djibouti: Medical support for migrants

During the migration process, vulnerability and health risks of migrants are high, due to the exposure to harsh conditions. Some, have faced human rights abuses, such as violence, rape, torture or xenophobic attacks, and many suffer from diseases such as sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis or malaria. BMM is supporting IOM's Djibouti Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock to provide the basic medical care needed. Currently, the Centre has no separate facilities to place migrants, for instance in cases of acute diarrheal diseases. Hence, BMM will upgrade and expand the existing facility into an appropriate place for migrants. Local companies have already started the construction work in mid-September and will finish in December 2017. Furthermore, BMM will procure the necessary equipment, including hiring a doctor and a nurse. In the future, the clinic will have two consultation rooms, a separate area, one room for observation and care, one stock for medical supplies and an infirmary with 15 beds. Serious medical cases will still be referred to the hospital in Obock.



Uganda: Identified areas of possible BMM engagement

On 25-28 September 2017, BMM conducted an inception mission to Uganda. In the light of increased engagement of donors on the current refugee crisis in the country, a wider scope for BMM on migration issues than originally planned can be envisaged in Uganda. Initial talks revealed a potential to engage in the area of support for the establishment of a National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) for the identification, protection, and referral of victims of trafficking. Support is also needed for an existing inter-governmental Task Force on Human Trafficking. There also is a need for capacity building for border officials (police, immigration, social services) to recognise and support victims of trafficking. The BMM could also promote NGOs and CSO networks which provide services to victims of trafficking (medical, psycho-social support, vocational training, family reintegration, legal, etc.) and engage in raising awareness of the dangers of human trafficking. Decisions of possible activities are expected by the end of 2017.

More news from the countries:

Ethiopia: Investigating on trafficking and smuggling of persons

BMM conducted an initial training on investigation and prosecution of trafficking and smuggling crimes for 25 police officers, prosecutors and immigration officials from the Amhara region on 19-21 September 2017. Participants were from the areas of Metema and Qwara on the border with Sudan. The training, delivered by Ethiopian experts, focused on applying relevant legal frameworks on migration and conducting witness interviews with vulnerable groups, including trafficked children, through a do-no-harm lens. The applied methods were interactive and participatory (e.g. roleplay). During the training, participants got a better understanding of the

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needs of migrants and how to treat migrants in line with a do-no-harm approach. The three-day training will be replicated in other migration ‘hotspot’ areas in the country over the coming months.

Kenya: Capacity building to promote migrant rights

BMM is cooperating with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) to develop training materials on migrant rights and to enhance the capacity of human rights institutions to promote those rights. BMM will provide training on migrant rights to relevant KNCHR staff throughout Kenya, making available the reference material developed and facilitating discussions on trafficking and migrant rights with their referral partner network. The material will be available for other activities in capacity building and will be shared regionally.

Kenya: Supporting voluntary return

In June 2017, BMM facilitated the repatriation of 37 Ethiopians. The migrants had been detained in Kenya for illegal entry and presence in the country. In the hope to find better living conditions, tens of thousands of Ethiopians leave their country every year to find work in the Middle East, Europe or Southern Africa. The 37 Ethiopian migrants entered Kenya through the Moyale border and intended to reach South Africa via the ‘Southern Route’, transiting through Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi. The repatriation operation was organised in collaboration with the Government of Kenya, the Ethiopian Embassy in Nairobi, IOM Kenya and supported by BMM to facilitate their voluntary return. The migrants’ specific needs and profiles, such as special medical requirement, were identified and they were provided with food and non-food items before their journey back to Ethiopia. Reintegration plans have been developed for 16 of the 37, based on their appeal for support.



IOM staff member provides post arrival briefing to returnees at Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. Photo: IOM

South Sudan: Training for immigration and airport facilitation

BMM provided training on immigration and operation from Juba International Airport (JIA) in South Sudan. On 2 -11 October 2017, in partnership with IOM’s African Capacity Building Centre, BMM conducted two training sessions to enhance capacities of immigration officers and staff of the airport operator. The first training, involving 12 members of the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration’s (DNPI) training unit, was held over five days and focused on Passport Examination Procedure. The trainees were trained to detect fraud on travel-related documents, including detecting falsified passports. They also discussed how immigration officers can prevent travel-related crimes in South Sudan. The second training focused on airport facilitation and

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included 30 people from over ten agencies operating at the Juba International Airport (JIA). During this three-day training, the participants were trained on Annex 9 of the Convention on the International Civil Aviation which included international standards and recommended practices for efficient airport facilitation. The participants undertook desktop simulation exercises and also had the opportunity to share information and experiences on improving airport facilitation at JIA through inter-agency cooperation.

Sudan: Addressing human trafficking or migrant smuggling at the borders

BMM held a three-day training course for Sudanese border and immigration officials, including IT experts from the Ministry of Interior and Customs. The training was hosted at IOM's African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC) in Tanzania on 22-24 August. The main objective was to enhance the capacity of Sudanese officials to upgrade their current border management information systems and consequently address human trafficking or migrant smuggling.

The training focused on IOM's Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS), a border management information system developed in 2009. Currently operational in 19 countries, MIDAS has been designed to be fully compliant with international standards. The 15 trainees came from migration and police services, including senior information and communication technology experts.

The training also provided the opportunity to discuss new technologies and their potential use to address identity fraud, organised crime and human trafficking and smuggling. The challenge was also to explore how new applications can improve the technical immigration process, while also respecting privacy and concerns of the misuse of data. Simultaneously, a delegation of high-level representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Passport and Civil Register Corporation conducted a three-day visit to Dar es Salaam to meet officials from the Tanzanian Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation and the National Identification Authority (NIDA). The visit facilitated an exchange of information and best practices to effectively address migration management challenges, with a special focus on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Not least through such exchange formats, mutual cross-border cooperation can be improved.

Finally, both Sudanese groups visited the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) at the Hollili/Tavata border crossing point between Kenya and Tanzania - a potential model for cross-border cooperation and efficient processing of travellers and goods crossing the borders.

Sudan: Reform of the migrant referral system

In Sudan, BMM has assessed the existing migrant referral system in El Gedaref, Eastern Sudan. Based on these findings, BMM will support the set-up of a reformed system, which will better respond to the needs of migrants. The aim is to enhance the development of medical services, psychosocial support, legal aid and translation services for migrants.

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