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Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



NEWSLETTER JULY 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024

Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme Horn of Africa



Wrapping up this year, we are pleased to share with you the 16th issue of the newsletter on progress and developments in implementing the Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme, funded by the European Union and Germany.

As the year draws to a close, we invite you to join us on a journey through our highlights from the past six months. 2024 has been an intensive year of implementation, marked by significant achievements driven by collective efforts.

We look ahead to the final year of BMM III, focusing on the opportunity to solidify these achievements and ensure their lasting impact. With a view to the upcoming scoping mission for a phase IV, we believe we can transform this progress into a sustainable contribution to safe migration.

We wish you joy, reflection, and warmth for your end of year celebrations.

Happy reading!

HIGHLIGHTS

A Lifeline for Migrants: New Digital Directory Transforms Support in East Africa

Help is now just a click away: The Digital Service Providers Directory (DSPD), launched on 17 December, helps migrants, refugees, and vulnerable individuals on the move in Ethiopia, Kenya, the region of Somaliland, and Uganda to access key services.

From medical care to legal aid, education, and shelter, this 24/7 online platform connects users with trusted providers near them - all at the touch of a button.



With multilingual accessibility in English, Somali, Amharic, Tigrinya, Afan Oromo, and Swahili, the DSPD ensures no one is left behind. Service providers participating can easily update and expand their listings, which guarantees that the directory is an up-to-date, reliable support for those in need. At the same time, it facilitates better coordination and cooperation between providers and improves referral according to need.

Implemented by



This initiative is made possible through support of the BMM Programme and joint efforts of key institutions across the region: The Ethiopian National Partnership Coalition (NPC), the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission (SLNHRC) and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons-Uganda (CATIP-U).

www.services-for-migrants-africa.com

One Step Closer to Justice in the Fight Against Human Trafficking



Training on the application of the SOP for investigating and prosecuting trafficking and smuggling cases (© CIVIPOL)

In a successful operation, the National Intelligence and Security Services of Ethiopia, in coordination with the Ethiopian Federal Police, cracked down on illegal employment practices exploiting Ethiopians' aspirations for a better life. As a result, 49 agency owners facilitating illegal labour recruitment were arrested following an extensive investigation and monitoring process.

The success of this operation was bolstered by BMM and the ROCK (Regional Operational Centre in support of the Khartoum Process) Programme, which provided critical support. Key actors involved in the investigation and arrests were trained in multi-agency cooperation and the application of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Investigating and Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants developed by BMM.

"We cooperated with investigators to provide advice, for example, on how to talk to a suspect, take witness statements, or collect evidence," explained Inspector Sefiwhizb Zewdu, head of the investigation unit for human trafficking cases.

Meanwhile in Uganda, during the Second National Workshop for the Multi-Agency Task Force for the Implementation of the SOPs on Investigating and Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons cases, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Jane Frances Abodo, emphasised the need for all prosecutors and investigating officers from the Uganda Police Force to consistently follow these crucial procedural instructions. Superintendent of Police and the acting head of trafficking in persons department, Annet Karungi, called upon all investigating officers to always refer to the SOPs throughout their operations instead of keeping them in their shelves, as is the case with some of the documents. "This is going to be like our Bible to ensure that we do the right thing." A similar recommendation came from Djibouti's newly appointed Attorney General, Lamisse Mohamed Said, who urges the police, gendarmerie, coast guard, labor inspectors, and prosecutors to enforce the SOPs.

Djibouti: Water, Food, and a Call Home

The port of Obock in northern Djibouti is a gateway to the countries of the Middle East. The closest destination is Yemen. Every day, an average of around 1,300 people cross Djibouti, many of them trying to make their way to this migration hotspot, traveling on foot under the scorching sun, often without access to drinking water.



"The first thing we give them is water," explains Fahim Neguib. "We also hand them our personal mobile phones so they can call home and let their families know they're alive, before referring them to the nearest polyclinic." Neguib is the coordinator of the Network for Better Migration Management (*Meil-*

leur Gestion Migratoire, MGM), an association of 17 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that offer a range of services, mostly aimed at providing migrants with the basics: water, food and clothes.

Another important player in delivering life-saving support is the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti. As part of the BMM Programme, IOM partnered with the Red Crescent Society to launch an assistance

programme. A key component of this initiative is a mobile unit that distributes essentials such as water and food. Since February 2024, this programme has reached more than 7,000 people in need in Djibouti.

[Short film on the assistance programme in cooperation with the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti](#)

Charting the Future: Workshops Concluded for BMM III's Final Year



Participants of the BMM Planning Workshop in Djibouti

The planning workshops for the third and final year of BMM III have successfully concluded, with the exception of the one for South Sudan, which will take place in early 2025. Held across Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, these workshops brought together partners from key governmental and civil society structures.

As BMM III enters its final year of implementation, the workshops focused on finalising planned activities for the remaining period. Additionally, they emphasised consolidating progress achieved so far and ensuring the sustainability of results.

The EU and Germany have reaffirmed their commitment to funding a phase IV of BMM. With a limited scope and budget, it will concentrate on core aspects to ensure a long-lasting impact of the activities and a sustainable strengthening of key actors.

Starting in January, assessment missions will evaluate potential areas of activity and priorities towards safe, orderly, and regular migration in the Horn of Africa.

Practice meets Theory: Multi-Agency Simulation-Based Training



To enhance the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases and improve the identification and referral of victims, BMM is conducting a Multi-Agency Simulation-Based Training programme. This initiative brings together key government stakeholders responsible for counter-trafficking and migration management, including law enforcement officers, prosecutors, immigration officials, and labour officers, alongside civil society actors.

At the core of the training is a reality-based case scenario: Role-players assume the parts of smugglers, traffickers, vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking, interacting directly with trainees. This immersive approach enables participants to apply knowledge gained from previous training while adhering to anti-trafficking legal frameworks and regulations.

The primary objective of the training is to strengthen the implementation of SOPs for investigating and prosecuting trafficking and smuggling cases and using the available tools. It also aims to promote the use of National Referral Mechanisms and corresponding guidelines to ensure victims and vulnerable migrants are directed to appropriate services.

Training sessions have been conducted in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, yielding tangible results. In Ethiopia, the implementation of the SOPs led to the arrest of 49 agency owners involved in illegal labour recruitment. Across all participating countries, law enforcement agencies referred 253 trafficking survivors to protection services.

The training programme is further supported by interactive videos, which serve as resources for ongoing knowledge management and reinforcement after the training sessions.

Somalia Ratifies UNTOC, Completing Africa's Commitment to this Global Framework

A remarkable achievement for Somalia! The Federal Republic of Somalia has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its key protocols. This milestone marks Somalia as the final African nation to make this pledge, representing a significant step in the fight against transnational organised crime. By joining this global framework, Somalia reaffirms its commitment to combating crimes such as human trafficking and protecting the most vulnerable.



Supported by the BMM Programme, Somalia's Ministry of Justice developed a comprehensive roadmap to achieve this milestone. Moving forward, BMM continues to collaborate with Somalia in ensuring the sustainable implementation of anti-trafficking and protection measures and enhancing co-operation within the region.

IN SHORT

Meet our Graduates! BMM Builds Talents



Basic kitchen operation is one of the vocational training courses offered by Hope Enterprise (© GIZ/M.Zerihun)

On 21 July, the first cohort of BMM-supported trainees at Hope Enterprise Ethiopia celebrated their graduation after completing a 6-month vocational training programme. A total of 182 migrants, returnees, and survivors of trafficking successfully finished their training, choosing from courses in electrical installation, basic apparel production, basic automotive technology, basic kitchen operations, and basic metalwork. The second batch of trainees is already underway.

Meanwhile, the sixth cohort of students began their first semester in the Postgraduate Diploma in Migration Studies at the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS). They follow in the footsteps of 61 students who have completed the programme with BMM-support since its launch. The Diploma combines academic excellence with practical skills, equipping participants (migration officials from government agencies in IGAD member states) to enhance migration governance in the Horn of Africa.

Somali Officials Visit Rwanda to Strengthen Cross-Border Mechanisms on Air, Land and Sea Routes

A delegation of Somali officials has embarked on a week-long study tour to Rwanda to observe and learn from the country's advanced interagency border management practices. Organised as part of Somalia's efforts to enhance border security and migration management, the visit included plenary discussions and field visits to key points of entry such as airports, ports, and land borders.



The delegation, comprising members of Somalia's Mogadishu Interagency Border Management Committee (IBMC), aims to replicate Rwanda's successful practices in managing border crossings. The focus areas of the study tour included secure information sharing, safeguarding sensitive data, and preventing crimes such as human trafficking, while ensuring the protection of vulnerable migrants.

Building Bridges in Migration Governance



Recommendations developed by members of the EHAAT network were presented at the GCM review.

At the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Review in October 2024 in Addis Ababa, the East and Horn of Africa Anti-Trafficking (EHAAT) Network took the global stage with 13 key recommendations. These proposals emphasised the need for stronger partnerships between governments and CSOs, advocating for inclusive national migration policies that reflect grassroots realities.

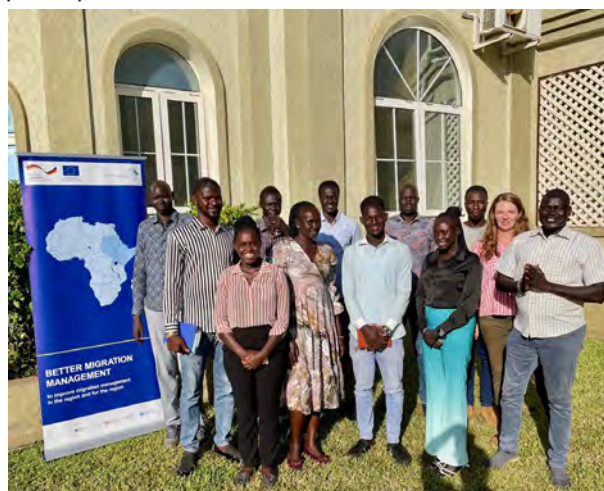
The network was set up by BMM in 2017, and grew ever since, representing more than 100 CSOs today. BMM has been supporting them with facilitating collaborative advocacy calls, other technical input and training measures. The GCM framework empowers a unified approach, promoting safer and more effective migration governance across the world.



Amplifying Voices: Empowering Survivors in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

The journey to empowerment continued: in the past month, BMM facilitated a training series on “Including Survivors’ Voices”, designed and delivered by the Kenyan CSO HAART. The training equips CSOs to amplify survivors’ stories safely and respectfully to intensify the fight against human trafficking.

“The knowledge gained has shifted my perspective, especially on the importance of trauma-informed, survivor-centred approaches. I can’t wait to bring this back to my organisation,” shared one participant.



Including Survivors’ Voices training session in South Sudan

Safer Skies: Regional Meeting on Trafficking by Air

The Regional Meeting on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants by Air brought together key stakeholders from across Africa, including representatives from airlines, law enforcement, and international organisations. The meeting fostered cross-sector partnerships to protect trafficking victims, strengthen interagency networks and share best practices on identifying and helping victims and detecting perpetrators using the airways. By enhancing collaboration between airlines and law enforcement, stakeholders are working to ensure safer skies and combat the exploitation of vulnerable individuals.

Background and Conceptual Framework

The Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme is a regional development cooperation programme funded by the European Union (EU) and the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with the aim of combating the trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the region and strengthening the protection of migrants' rights. BMM supports the countries of the Horn of Africa region in enhancing their cooperation and fostering common approaches to improve migration management. The programme is designed to respond to the needs identified by the partner countries, using their priorities as a basis for the ac-

tivities that follow a human rights-based approach. Key to the programme is its alignment with existing mechanisms and initiatives of the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Phase III is running from October 2022 to September 2025 with an overall budget of EUR 41 million. It is implemented by the five implementation partners British Council, CIVIPOL, IOM, GIZ and UNODC in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.

A more comprehensive overview can be found on the updated [GIZ website](#) and the [INTPA Website](#).



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