



Co-funded by
the European Union



german
cooperation

DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme in Kenya

General context

Kenya is a major hub for migration in the region, hosting over one million migrants and around 830,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia (UN, January 2025).

Human trafficking remains a significant concern in Kenya, with well-organised criminal networks operating across the country. The 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report by the U.S. Department of State as well as the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024 published by UNODC, highlight ongoing challenges in combating human trafficking in Kenya, emphasising the need for continued efforts to address vulnerabilities and strengthen protective measures.

BMM's approach and activities

In 2016, the European Union and Germany established the Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme. Now in its third phase, the programme enables national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration and effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of

Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Project name	Better Migration Management Programme
Political Partner in Kenya	Ministry of Interior & National Administration
Partner countries	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda
Duration	April 2016 to September 2025
Implementing Partners in Kenya	CIVIPOL, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region using a human rights-based approach. BMM focuses on three components: migration governance, strengthening effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling and the protection of migrants. Jointly implemented by British Council, CIVIPOL, GIZ, IOM and UNODC, BMM maximises the impact of activities through global expertise and integrated and comprehensive local solutions. GIZ provides overall coordination.

Implemented by



Regionally, BMM works in coordination with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU).

In Kenya, BMM partners with key stakeholders, such as the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM), the Counter Trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Civil Society Organisations (CSO). Building on the results of phase I and II, BMM phase III focuses on consolidating an integrated regional and sustainable approach to migration management.

Migration Governance

BMM supports the NCM in its role as an inter-agency coordination body for migration-related issues. It conducts workshops and training courses to improve NCM's functionality, reporting and planning. The NCM's capacity to share, protect, analyse and use data for policy development is being strengthened through data management training.

BMM promotes a whole-of-government approach to migration management at national and regional level, bringing together relevant actors from ministries, institutions, civil society and the private sector. To this end, the programme provided training through an interactive card game, that allows participants to identify various challenges and aspects that are all related to migration.

BMM also supports the drafting the National Migration Policy and development of the National Migration Coordination Directorate (NMCD), envisioned as a central platform for migration governance. Furthermore, BMM facilitated county outreach programmes of the NCM to allowing local governments to formulate migration policy priorities and recommendations.

At the request of the Directorate of Immigration Services, BMM contributed to establishing the Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS), which provides training that combines academic expertise and practical skills. Since its launch in 2018, through cooperation with the Maastricht University and the University of Nairobi, over 100 officials from IGAD Member States have studied towards the Post Graduate Diploma in Migration Studies. Students return to their sending institutions with broadened knowledge of migration, improved skills and strong regional networks.

With support of BMM, the Government of Kenya launched a National Implementation Plan for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration that reflects a proactive approach to translating commitments into impactful strategies.



Students of the KIMS Post Graduate Diploma in Migration Studies return to their sending institutions with broadened knowledge of migration, improved skills and strong regional networks. ©GIZ/Light in Captivity

Effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling

The Kenyan Government has taken significant steps to combat trafficking in human beings (THB) and the smuggling of migrants (SoM), including launching a national referral mechanism (NRM), a system that facilitates the referral of victims of trafficking to services.

The country introduced new regulations for private labour recruitment agencies and strengthened law enforcement authorities to counter THB and launched the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU) based at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations.

BMM has supported implementation of the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act 2010 by assisting the Kenyan Counter Trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee in becoming operational.

BMM has supported the Kenyan government in effectively implementing these measures. Through a comprehensive approach to capacity building, the programme has enhanced cooperation across agencies in facilitating safe migration, prosecuting trafficking crimes, and protecting victims. Building on these efforts, a multi-agency, simulation-based training program was introduced in 2023 and has been conducted at both national and regional levels. This training reinforces the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for investigating and prosecuting THB/SoM cases, as well as the NRM and related guidelines, ensuring the protection of victims' rights and enabling their referral to appropriate services.

Additionally, BMM organised a mock trial exercise on THB and SoM, training representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to improve the handling and prosecution.

In 2024, BMM facilitated the first of two specialised inter-agency simulation training workshop on countering trafficking by air, involving prosecutors, national police, immigration officers, as well as representatives of a CSOs and airport staff.

The National Police Service was supported in launching a curriculum on investigating THB. To mainstream it into the police training curriculum, both training sessions and training for trainer were carried out.

In 2024, BMM supported Kenya's first National Border Management Conference, which provided a platform for exchanging opportunities for improving regional coordination and integration to address transnational threats and human security. Recommendations included developing a national policy on Integrated Border Management, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and investing in technology and infrastructure.

Furthermore, BMM is partnering with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) to promote and protect rights of migrants who often face violations such as a lack of access to essential services (healthcare, housing, education etc.) and arbitrary detention and denial of a fair trial. With support from BMM, KNHCR is developing guidelines for Alternatives to Detention, providing options for law, policy and institutional practices.

Protection

In cooperation with the Counter-Trafficking in Persons (CTiP) Secretariat and CSOs, BMM provides training for relevant governmental and non-governmental actors on the national referral mechanism to facilitate the referral of migrants to appropriate services, such as shelter, legal aid, medical services and psychosocial support.



Multi-agency simulation-based training for improved investigation of cases of trafficking in human beings ©CIVIPOL

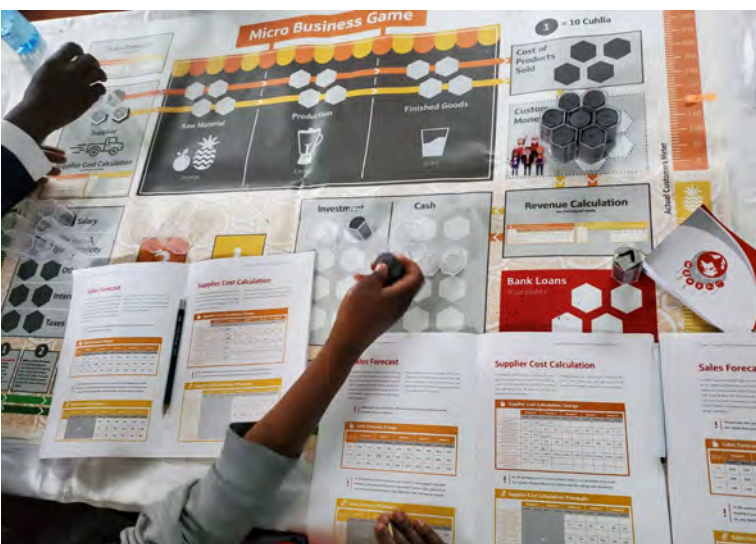
In December 2024, the Digital Service Provider Directory (DSPD) was launched. This online platform was developed by BMM in collaboration with KNCHR, the Ethiopian National Partnership Coalition, the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons-Uganda. The DSPD helps migrants, refugees, and vulnerable individuals on the move to access key services.

As many services are provided by civil society initiatives, BMM is implementing a capacity building programme for CSOs and facilitates the Regional CSO Forum on Safe and Fair Migration, which comprises over 100 CSOs who established the East and Horn of Africa Anti-Trafficking (EHAAT) Network. BMM supports them with training and facilitating monthly learning calls.

BMM also runs awareness campaigns with local CSOs such as Candle of Hope Foundation, Trace Kenya, and Terre des Hommes, targeting migration hotspots and transport sectors. Bus drivers, ticket sellers, and conductors receive training on identifying and referring potential trafficking victims. Communication materials such as posters, headrests, audio messages, leaflets, and stickers have increased trafficking-related interceptions and helpline call.

Next to this, BMM organised mobile registration drives and assistance for legal registration. More than 10,000 people benefited from this support to obtain essential legal documents such as birth certificates and identity cards. These initiatives reduce vulnerabilities and improve access to essential services.

To empower victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants with sustainable socio-economic solutions, BMM cooperated with the Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung that conducted a Micro Business Games training to strengthen financial and entrepreneurial skills.



Using a dynamic board game, participants of the Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung Micro Business Games manage a fictional juice shop over a period of four years, learning essential skills such as accounting, business diversification and marketing. ©GIZ



Results of BMM (April 2016 – September 2024)



5,727 governmental and non-governmental actors were supported to strengthen coordinated migration management, national migration policies, legislation, and cross-border cooperation



235 capacity building measures were implemented for **4,859** governmental and non-governmental actors in the areas of investigation and prosecution of trafficking, integrated border management, and the referral of migrants to services



> 60,000 individuals were potentially reached through awareness-raising activities on human trafficking and migrants' rights

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices	Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Project	Better Migration Management Programme Rue de la Charité 33 / Liefdadigheidsstraat 33 1210 Bruxelles/ Brussels ; Belgique/België
Contact	Marina Mdaihl, Programme Director E-mail: marina.mdaihl@giz.de

Contact BMM Regional Office Kenya / Somalia
Johanna.Boegl@giz.de

Design/Layout GIZ/Ira Olaleye

Photo credits GIZ

This publication was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Its content is the sole responsibility of GIZ and does not necessarily reflect the views of the EU and BMZ.

As at February 2025
Brussels