



Co-funded by
the European Union



german
cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



NEWSLETTER JANUARY TO JUNE 2025

Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme Horn of Africa



As we wrap up the final months of the Better Migration Management (BMM) phase III, we are pleased to share with you the 17th issue of our newsletter, highlighting the programme's progress and impact across the Horn of Africa.

This issue marks the conclusion of an important phase in our collective journey. BMM III has been a period of intensive implementation, deepened collaboration, and tangible results.

While this newsletter closes the chapter on phase III, preparation for phase IV is underway and we look forward to building on the achievements of the past years and ensuring their lasting impact in the region.

We invite you to reflect with us on the stories and milestones, and wish you a happy reading!

HIGHLIGHTS

BMM at a glance: Numbers tell part of the story, real change is seen in the people behind them

The second edition of our Booklet "BMM at a glance" features numbers, stories and faces of migration management in the Horn of Africa and brings 9 years of implementation to life. We are happy to share with you how we are joining forces on different levels. Starting with the EU and Germany, who co-created and finance the BMM.



The implementing organisations are bringing in different, long-term expertise, combining it efficiently to achieve the best outcome.

Our work could not be done without numerous national partners, with whom we collectively carry out a diverse range of activities – all with one goal: Protecting people on the move and making migration safe and fair.

This starts, for instance, with people like Veronica Mwangi from the Kenyan Human Rights Commission, which achieved to integrate migrants' rights across state institutions in Kenya.

Implemented by



Another changemaker is Joseph Kyomuhendo from Uganda, who knows that justice starts with bridging the gap between law enforcement and trafficking survivors to protect the victims and bring trafficking cases to court.

We are also delighted to share important milestones, such as the launch of the [Digital Service Providers Directory](#), a platform connecting people on the move with services across Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. It is the result of close collaboration between key regional partners.

A graphic illustrates the ensemble of complementary tools and instruments implemented with BMM support since the programme's inception - all crucial for sustainable safe migration management. And at the very end of our booklet, we test your knowledge on migration and human trafficking! You might be surprised by some of the facts. Curious... ? Have a look into our Booklet and discover how people are making a difference. [Click here](#)

From HOPE to Opportunity: Skills Training in Ethiopia

In Addis Ababa, five young women, Nigist, Mekdes, Mekdes G., Tihune and Tamralech, are running a restaurant that serves traditional Ethiopian dishes with a modern twist.

Just a year ago, they were all struggling to find a way forward. With limited education and few job prospects, they had seriously considered migrating abroad. That changed when they enrolled in the Kitchen Operations course at the HOPE Enterprise Training Centre, supported by BMM. The 6-month course equipped them with practical skills in food preparation and hygiene, alongside skills such as financial literacy, teamwork, and business planning. They furthermore won a business plan competition, received startup capital, and brought their vision of fast, affordable, and authentic Ethiopian cuisine to life. "The Em,' our eatery, is proof that job training transforms lives," says Tihune with a smile.

Another graduate is Edelam Melkamu, a 25-year-old mother who returned to Ethiopia after two difficult years working in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with no savings and few options.

Edelam joined the Basic Apparel Production course at HOPE. The centre's daycare services for her 2-year-old child and transport support made it possible for her to attend and complete her training. Today, she works as a junior tailor at a local garment factory. "I'm finally standing on my own feet," she says. "The training gave me a second chance."

In early 2024, BMM started to partner with the vocational training centre HOPE Enterprise by funding the participation of potential migrants, returnees and survivors of trafficking in the training. The courses, covering a wide range of fields, including kitchen operations, auto mechanics, electrical installation, clothing production, and metalwork, are 80% hands-on and 20% theoretical, with training delivered by experienced instructors. HOPE also provides trainees with all necessary materials, such as tools, workwear, safety gear, and even medical support.

Recruitment is targeted and inclusive, focusing on youth with the least access to opportunity. HOPE and BMM have worked closely with government offices and CSOs to reach survivors of trafficking, returnees, and youth at risk of irregular migration. Through this collaboration, 279 young people have successfully completed the training. 92% are now employed, either in wage-paying jobs or self-run businesses. Skills training has led to new beginnings.



British Council makes Youth-ful!

Uganda has one of the youngest populations worldwide. Over half of its people is aged under 17 and nearly 80% under 30. Limited livelihood opportunities push many young people into unemployment, or risky migration paths, often exposing them to exploitation and trafficking.

Through the BMM Programme, the British Council has supported safer futures by promoting legal migration pathways and creating sustainable alternatives in the home country. In partnership with organisations like Hope for Justice, Rahab Uganda, and Willow International, the programme empowered youth through skills development, entrepreneurship training, and ethical business practices.

At the heart of this effort are youth-led community platforms. These spaces have become hubs for raising awareness, sharing solutions, and supporting peers with the knowledge and tools to avoid unsafe migration. Campaigns have informed communities about the dangers of trafficking, how to report abuse, and the importance of knowing and using the law to hold perpetrators accountable.

14 youth-led social action projects have sparked real change building resilience and offering young people tangible alternatives. Like Andrew Madete from Kapchorwa, for example: his paper bag-making initiative hits two birds with one stone:



providing income-generating opportunities for local youth by selling the bags at the market, while also helping to reduce plastic waste in the village.

As the British Council is phasing-out from BMM, it marked the moment with a cross-border learning visit bringing together youth leaders, civil society and government actors from Uganda and Ethiopia, stressing the core idea of strengthened partnerships that outlive the programme.

Having been a celebration and a handover, the event allowed to reflect on what has been built - empowered youth, a collaborative framework for future interventions and strong partnerships - and to set the stage for what comes next: moving communities forward, shaping futures and promoting safe, dignified, and rights-based migration management.



Voices in the Courtroom: Weaving Fairness into the Fight Against Trafficking

Fairness in justice means equality of treatment and impartiality, both are fundamental to the fair trial principles that BMM is promoting across the Horn of Africa. Through targeted capacity-building in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and South Sudan, BMM has supported criminal justice actors in applying fair trial principles while prioritising victims' rights. Since 2023, 343 prosecutors and judicial officials have been trained.

Key activities include mock trials, specialised workshops, and Training of Trainers sessions, with participants ranging from prosecutors and police to justice ministry staff, financial investigators, and civil society actors. Topics such as international cooperation, electronic evidence, and financial investigations are covered in depth, alongside victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches.

"I can now enlighten victims on their rights and assist them in accordance with Kenyan law," stated a female prosecutor who attended a workshop. The impact is visible in real courtrooms, where trained practitioners apply fair trial principles, as the following two examples illustrate.

Selected examples of trials in Kenya that adhered to fair trial principles:

Accused persons: A couple and 1 staff of a private hospital in Nairobi

Charge: child trafficking and illegal fostering

7 prosecution witnesses have so far testified

Fair Trial Principles' Indicators:

- ✓ The accused persons had access to legal representation and been admitted to bail
- ✓ The baby (victim) was rescued and sheltered at a children's home, DNA examination, a best interest determination and age assessment were conducted and the baby was eventually reunited with its parents

Status: Ongoing

Accused persons: 4 Kenyans (employees of the Kenya Airports Authority, Kenya Airways and Kenya Directorate of Immigration Services)

Charge: Trafficking of 3 Eritrean nationals (2 minors and 1 adult) to Zimbabwe, including arranging irregular boarding of plane and clearance of irregular travel documents.

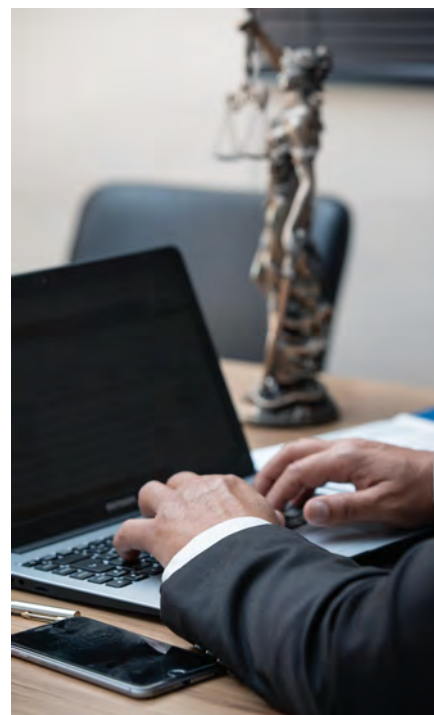
Fair Trial Principles' Indicators:

- ✓ The victims had access to interpretation services, were sheltered in a safe space within the airport to guarantee their safety and well-being during trial and were later repatriated to and reintegrated in their home country
- ✓ The accused persons had access to legal representation throughout the case and were admitted to bail pending hearing

Verdict: 30 years imprisonment

In Kenya, a German national was sentenced to 30 years in prison for offences against three minors. Thanks to BMM-supported training, the trial upheld international fair trial standards: the accused had legal representation and interpretation; the child victims were sheltered, supported, and legally guided throughout the proceedings.

In Uganda, another case is ongoing against five individuals accused of trafficking a young woman to Saudi Arabia and harvesting her kidney. Both the victim and the accused are receiving legal support, with the victim also benefiting from psychosocial care and shelter, demonstrating how fair trial principles should be applied at every stage of justice.



Accused person: Kenyan national

Charge: Human Smuggling; harbouring 4 victims of human trafficking of Somali nationality

Fair Trial Principles' Indicators:

- ✓ The accused person had access to interpretation services and to legal representation throughout the case and was granted a reasonable cash bail
- ✓ The victims were sheltered in a safe house to guarantee their safety and well-being during trial

Verdict: Fine of 300,000 Kenyan shilling and 24 months imprisonment

Accused person: Tanzanian national residing in Nairobi

Charge: Trafficking in persons involving young and disabled children from Tanzania to be exploited for forced begging.

Investigations involved cross border collaboration and exchange of intelligence information.

Fair Trial Principles' Indicators:

- ✓ The accused person chose to represent himself, he was not admitted to bail because he was considered a flight risk. Considering that he was in police custody, the trial was expedited
- ✓ The victims were sheltered in a safe house to guarantee their safety and well-being during trial; a best interest determination was conducted and they were repatriated and reunited with their families.

Verdict: Accused was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of 30 million of Kenyan shilling or serve 30 years in prison. Further investigations culminated into the rescue of 78 other victims later in that year.

From Protocol to Protection: Turning Policy into Action Against Trafficking



In a significant regional step against transnational crime, BMM has supported the development and endorsement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Investigating and Prosecuting Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

The SOPs promote coordinated, intelligence-led investigations across borders. They incorporate mechanisms for international police and judicial cooperation, financial investigations, and place a strong emphasis on victim protection. By applying trauma-informed, gender-sensitive, and child-protective lens, the SOPs ensure that victims are identified early, referred for assistance, and supported before, during, and after legal proceedings.

Police officers and prosecutors are now using a checklist to document procedures and outcomes, soon to be fully digital through a BMM-supported app. The app will enable easier use, data sharing, and analysis across devices. Integrated links to the Digital Service Provider Directory and the Determinants of Migrants Vulnerability (DoMV) Toolbox ensure quick access to legal tools and essential services for those in need.

To drive implementation, each country has established a permanent Multi-Agency Task Force/ Technical Working Group. These national bodies are key to monitor the use of SOPs and foster cross-sector collaboration.

Building on this progress, the 2025 Regional Forum of the Multi-Agency Task Forces/ Technical Working Groups convened over 90 participants from across the region, including representatives from justice, immigration, financial intelligence, labour inspection, national referral mechanism coordinators, civil society actors, and international partners. They reaffirmed their commitment to coordinated, victim-centred action that delivers justice and protection across borders. Key priorities moving forward include:

- Turning SOPs into action: sharing practical case experiences, digital tools, and evaluation methods
- Strengthening international cooperation: joint investigations, legal assistance, and police collaboration
- Dismantling criminal networks: financial investigations, asset recovery, and victim compensation
- Improving victim referral systems: via National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) and across borders
- Boosting capacity: simulation-based, multi-agency trainings and tailored curricula
- Responding to emerging threats: addressing evolving trafficking trends, including those linked to labour migration, scam compounds, aviation, and tech-enabled exploitation.

IN SHORT

Crafting Careers in Hospitality and Beauty

In a room filled with ambition, 30 young people in the region of Somaliland set out to shape their futures, armed with brushes, business plans and bold ideas. From October 2024 to January 2025, the Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (SOYDAVO) organised a training programme with BMM's support that offered hands-on learning in hospitality, beauty and business management.

After a month of joint hospitality training, including learning in social media marketing and digital booking systems, participants specialised in either Henna and Beautification or Advanced Business Management. The beauty track helped modernise traditional henna art and taught skills in makeup, hairstyling, and launching small businesses. The business track introduced core concepts and strategies to help participants grow their ventures sustainably.

The programme closed with a graduation ceremony to celebrate new skills, greater confidence, and pathways to economic independence.



Spotting Trafficking Where It Hides: A New Tool for Labour Inspectors

Trafficking does not always take place in the shadows. It can also happen in plain sight, in factories, on construction sites, or in private homes.

Labour inspectors are uniquely positioned to spot exploitation early and join the fight against this crime. They are now being equipped with a crucial tool to help them identify victims, work with police and prosecutors, and make sure survivors get support.

The *Guidelines for Labour Inspectors on Addressing Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation* have been developed with support from BMM and through workshops with inspectors, ministries and experts. Being the first-of-its-kind in the region, they are aligned with existing national anti-trafficking strategies. They are furthermore coordinated with the investigation and prosecution SOPs, and the labour inspection services are invited to be part of the SOPs' Multi-Agency Task Forces/Technical Working Groups, to strengthen coordinated strategies and action.

Ethiopia and Djibouti have officially endorsed the guidelines. Kenya and Uganda are now preparing to follow.

Dial 6073: Ethiopia's New Hotline Against Human Trafficking

In collaboration with the Addis Ababa Bureau of Justice, BMM has launched a victim hotline using the short code 6073. This number to safety is part of a broader initiative to operationalise Ethiopia's national referral mechanism. Together with the Ministry of Justice and National Partnership Coalition Secretariat the initiative prioritises the establishment of a national toll-free hotline to combat trafficking in persons and help migrants in vulnerable situations.



Alongside government bodies and CSOs, BMM is helping to build a coordinated safety net. Hotlines on national and local level enable victims and concerned individuals to report trafficking, seek legal advice, access services, or ask questions about safe overseas employment.

Each hotline is staffed by six trained operators supported by the Anti-Trafficking and Smuggling Office. Recognising the emotional and technical demands of their role, BMM provided targeted training in trauma-informed care, legal frameworks, active listening, safety assessment, data protection, operator well-being, and security.

Operators are further supported by a Hotline Management Handbook and a tailored Training Guide, enabling them not only to answer calls but to deliver vital assistance. This joint initiative marks a significant stride toward a more responsive, coordinated, and victim-centred approach to counter-trafficking and protection.

One Toolbox, multiple Solutions: Protecting Migrants Made Practical

The reality is that not every vulnerable migrant fits neatly into categories like refugee, unaccompanied minor, or victim of trafficking. Many fall through the cracks, unseen and unprotected. That is where IOM's DoMV model comes in. The [Determinants of Migrants Vulnerability \(DoMV\) Toolbox](#) helps governments, civil society organisations, service providers, and case managers connect the dots between needs, beneficiaries, and appropriate actions. It bridges the gap between regular and irregular migrants facing exploitation and abuse, enabling a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to migrant protection.

What's in the Toolbox?

It is a resource repository of guidelines, screening tools, best practices, referral systems, adaptable templates, and SOPs, designed for use in every setting, from crises and emergencies response to development and recovery.

How does it work?

Whether you're in the field, at a desk, or in a policy meeting, the DoMV Toolbox supports effective, targeted action.

- Spot the need: Is it legal aid? Psychosocial support? Emergency housing?
- Open the Toolbox: Browse general and country-specific tools
- Download and act: Follow the clear, step-by-step guidance. Combine tools as needed.



BMM IV Set to Launch: Building on Success, Focusing on Sustainability

As BMM Phase III wraps up its final year, preparations are underway for the next chapter: BMM IV. With funding from the EU and Germany, the programme will continue for another three years, with a sharper focus and targeted scope.

Operating with a reduced budget, BMM IV will concentrate on ensuring the long-term impact of previous efforts and the sustainable strengthening of key institutions and partners.

The new phase will be implemented by GIZ, CIVIPOL, IOM, and UNODC and cover Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. It will focus on two core areas:

1. Strengthening institutions combatting human trafficking and migrant smuggling through training for police, prosecutors, and civil society actors to improve investigations, prosecutions, and victim referrals.
2. Protecting victims and migrants by reinforcing CSOs that provide vital support services such as shelter, medical care, and legal assistance.

Latest publications

The result of our work comes to life when we look closely at the people it touches, both partners and beneficiaries. The following success stories show how already one person, or several few working together, can make a change.

[When many individual voices become one strong, unified voice](#)

[Uniting for change: The East & Horn of Africa Anti-Trafficking Network champions migrant protection](#)

[Quenching thirst and creating change: A lifeline for migrants at Djibouti's gateway of hope](#)

['My work will be done when no child has to live on the streets any longer'](#)

[Upholding the fundamental rights of migrants in the Horn of Africa](#)

News



Welcome to our page!

Learn more about our work and impacts in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

Get regular updates and insights about our #JourneyOfChange.

[Upholding the fundamental rights of migrants in the Horn of Africa](#)



[Quenching thirst and creating change: A lifeline for migrants at Djibouti's gateway of hope](#)



['My work will be done when no child has to live on the streets any longer'](#)





Background and Conceptual Framework

The Better Migration Management (BMM) 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 activities 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).

BMM III is running from October 2022 to September 2025 with an overall budget of EUR 41 million. It is implemented by 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](#).

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices	Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Project	Better Migration Management / GIZ Rue de la Charité 33/ Liefdadigheidsstraat 33 1210 Bruxelles/Brussels Belgique/België
Contact	Marina.Mdaihli@giz.de

Photo credits	Cover and last page: © Adobe Stock
As at	June 2025, Brussels

This publication was produced with financial support of the European Union (EU) and the Federal German 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.