

Launch of the referral guide for migrants in the Republic of Djibouti.

Celebration of the International Women's Day.

National workshop to disseminate the national diaspora engagement strategy.

1 142 migrants received emergency assistance through IOM mobile unit in the Obock region.

115 vulnerable migrants benefited from assisted voluntary return programs to Ethiopia.



*Migrants, refugees and host community celebrate International Women's Day together
© Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022*

HIGHLIGHTS

A referral guide for migrants in the Republic of Djibouti was launched in the presence of the Minister of Interior H.E. Said Nouh Hassan, the Ambassadors of the European Union, Germany and IOM Chief of Mission. This guide will facilitate the provision of protection and assistance services to vulnerable migrants transiting through Djibouti.

Under the theme "Equality Today for a

Sustainable Tomorrow", IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Family and its partners, organized a series of activities in Obock on the occasion of the celebration of the International Women's Day.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Minister of Interior, the European Union Ambassador and IOM Chief of Mission, launched a two-

day national workshop to raise awareness about the national strategy on diaspora that was launched in 2021.

Furthermore, with the improvement of the security situation in Ethiopia, the assisted voluntary return program has resumed in some parts of the country, allowing 115 migrants to return in a safe and dignified manner to their countries of origin.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In March, 16 044 movements were observed by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) at key transit points in Djibouti, for a daily average of 573 movements. Migration flows showed a slight increase of 5 percent compared to February 2022. This can be explained by the fact that many migrants prefer to travel near or during the month of Ramadan due to the easiness of crossing the road to Saudi Arabia and the reduction of migrants deportation cases observed since last month. Thus, movements between Djibouti and Ethiopia increased significantly compared to the previous month, with a total of 9,649 entries (+9%) and 1,266 exits observed (+55%).

Since the beginning of 2022, 26 316 migrants from Ethiopia have entered Djibouti. Of the 16,044 movements recorded through Djibouti, 18% were in Obock, in the coastal region of Djibouti where migrants cross the Gulf of Aden to the Arabian Peninsula along the

"Eastern Route. On this route, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen continue to be observed.

Since the beginning of this year, 1 831 returns from Yemen have been recorded. While the number of returns had been steadily decreasing since July 2021, reaching its lowest level in December 2021 (178 movements), since the beginning of 2022 there has been a reverse trend with a total of 452 returns in January and 590 and 789 returns from Yemen in February and March. In addition, some Ethiopian migrants transiting through Djibouti remain stranded there due to lack of resources to continue their journey. During this month, 765 people were stranded in informal sites in the regions of Obock (36%), Dikhil (26%), Tadjourah (23%) and Ali-Sabieh (15%).

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DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

IOM provided shelter, water, food, non-food items, and medical and psychosocial assistance to 303 (243 men, 11 women, and 49 children) vulnerable migrants housed at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock. Furthermore, the strengthening of assistance to the most vulnerable migrants, through the establishment of a new mobile patrol operating in the region of Tadjourah and along the Lake Assal corridor, in addition to the one operating on the Obock-Moulhoulé axis, provided emergency assistance to 1,142 (1,034 males and 38 females) vulnerable migrants, including 70 children during the month.

With funding from the European Union (EU-IOM Joint Initiative, DG ECHO), IOM's MRC teams continue to provide multi-sectoral assistance to meet the basic needs of migrants staying at the center, as well as those in transit to Ethiopia.



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

As a result of the improvement of the security situation in some regions of Ethiopia, IOM, through its Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programme, was able to assist 115 extremely vulnerable migrants to return home safely. Four return operations were organized during the month for 78 men, 8 women, 13 accompanied minors and 16 unaccompanied children.



Migrants benefiting from the voluntary return program board a bus © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

This assistance is funded by the European Union (EU) under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in the Horn of Africa.

During this month, IOM teams facilitated the departure of 3 persons with refugee status to Canada (2 women, 1 man) through

the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program. The beneficiaries of this project were able to benefit from training on the culture and customs of the host country before their departure in order to facilitate their integration.



MIGRATION AND GOVERNANCE

On March 3, 2022, IOM launched a referral guide for migrants in the Republic of Djibouti, in the presence of the Minister of Interior H.E. Said Nouh Hassan, the Ambassadors of the European Union, Germany and IOM Chief of Mission. The development of the guide was carried out in coordination with several entities such as the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disasters Victims (ONARS) and the Migration Coordination Office and was attended by several national institutions, civil society organizations and protection actors in general. This guide will formalize and facilitate the provision of protection and assistance services to vulnerable migrants transiting through Djibouti.



Group photo of the participants in the launch of the referral guide for migrants © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

This initiative was achieved through the EU-funded "Durable Solutions for Refugees, Host Populations and Most Vulnerable living in Djibouti territory" project and the Better Migration Management (BMM II) program in Djibouti, co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and coordinated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

On March 20, 2022, a national workshop to disseminate the national diaspora engagement strategy was launched in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Minister of Interior, the Ambassador of the European Union to Djibouti and IOM Chief of Mission. This two-day workshop brought together members of the Global Djibouti Diaspora office, participants from public and private institutions as well as non-governmental organizations to discuss the objectives of the strategy and promote the commitment of key ministries and partners in the implementation of this strategy.



Launch of the national workshop to disseminate the national diaspora engagement strategy © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

This activity was organized with funding from the European Union within the framework of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants living in Djibouti territory"



EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

In collaboration with the DSME (Directorate of Mother and Child Health) of the Ministry of Health, IOM organized a training workshop from March 14 to 16, 2022 on gender-based violence and the use of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits for about thirty midwives from polyclinics, maternity wards and hospital centers in the regions. This training, conducted by two specialists from the Ministry of Health, allowed a better understanding of the mechanisms of care for victims of violence, including psychosocial support in order to ensure adequate medical follow-up of victims. The availability and use of post-exposure prophylaxis kits will help prevent complications or risks of STD contamination, particularly HIV, but also unwanted pregnancies.



Group photo of participants in the training on the use of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits and gender-based violence © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

This activity was funded by the European Union as part of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants living in Djibouti territory."

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Women's Day, IOM organized a series of activities in Obock in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Family (MFF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD), the Women's Association of Obock and women's representatives from the Markazi refugee village and from the Migration Response Centre (MRC) of Obock.

The commemoration of this day was launched by a conference that brought together partners to discuss the fights for women's rights. Under the theme of "Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow", the celebration continued with speeches by officials, followed by performances of traditional Djiboutian, Yemeni and Ethiopian dances by groups composed of migrants, refugees and members of the host community. The day ended with a visit to the handcraft stands of the women's associations of Obock and a hearty lunch served to all participants at the IOM's Migration Response Centre of Obock.

These activities were carried out thanks to the funding of the European Union within the framework of the program "EU-IOM Joint Initiative for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in the Horn of Africa" in its 5th year.



PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

During the month of March, IOM in close collaboration with the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD), organized a training session for agents of the Galafi border post on the identification and referral of victims of gender-based violence. The training was also attended by officers from the prefecture of Dikhil, the regional council, the gendarmerie and the police of the city of Dikhil.



Training on the identification and referral of victims of gender-based violence. Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

Funded by the European Union through the project "Response to the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the IGAD region", this training aimed at strengthening the capacities of actors involved in the management of GBV of the coronavirus pandemic at the border level in terms of GBV case management.



MANAGING MIGRATION FLOWS

In the presence of the Chief of Staff of the National Gendarmerie, the German Ambassador to Djibouti and IOM Chief of Mission, equipment was handed over by IOM to the mobile patrol units of the National Gendarmerie in the regions of Dikhil and Ali Sabieh. These equipment, consisting of fingerprinting cases, computers, printers, night vision glasses, cameras, first aid kits and body bags, will strengthen the operational capacity of these units in protecting and assisting migrants transiting through Djibouti. This activity is part of the project "Better Migration Management Phase II" (BMM II) in Djibouti, co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and coordinated by the German Agency for International Development Cooperation (GIZ).



Handover of equipment for the mobile patrol units of the national gendarmerie in the regions of Dikhil and Ali Sabieh © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022



MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

From 22 to 23 March 2022, IOM, with the technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized the 3rd phase of a training on fodder crops for 20 beneficiaries residing in the locality of fanteherou in Obock. This practical training took place in the plot set up by IOM in this locality and enabled the beneficiaries to acquire the necessary skills to grow fodder plants and to benefit from the sale of these plants.



Beneficiaries residing in the locality of Fanteherou benefit from training on fodder cultivation © Photo: IOM Djibouti/2022

These activities are part of the implementation of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) project, funded by IOM Development Fund (IDF).