

**Inauguration of a Transit Centre** for vulnerable children and migrants in Djibouti, in the presence of the Prime Minister H.E.M. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed.

**Inauguration of IOM Djibouti Sub-Office** in Tadjourah region.

**Painting exhibition of the artist Patrick Singh** "On the other side, Djibouti"

**1191 migrants received emergency** assistance through IOM's mobile unit in the Obock region.



*Accompanied by the delegation, the Prime Minister H.E. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed visits the new transit center © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022*

## HIGHLIGHTS

His Excellency Mr. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, Prime Minister, Her Excellency Mrs. Mouna Osman Aden, Minister of Women and Family and Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi, IOM Chief of Staff, jointly inaugurated the new transit centre for vulnerable children and migrants in Djibouti. This initiative will support the Djibouti government's efforts in providing assistance and protection to vulnerable populations.

In the presence of the IOM Chief of Staff, Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi, local authorities of the Tadjourah region and IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission Ms. Stephanie Daviot, IOM inaugurated its new Sub Office in Tadjourah region.

IOM organized a painting exhibition under the theme "On the other side, Djibouti" to recount the story of migrants transiting through Djibouti and the reality faced by the local communities hosting them.

During the month of June, the number of entries observed at the various transit points increased by more than 11% compared to last month, rising from 15,000 entries from Ethiopia during the month of May, to more than 16,000 entries during this month.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

In June 2022, 23,363 movements were observed by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) at key transit points in Djibouti, corresponding to a daily average of 745 movements. Migration flows increased by 7% compared to May 2022 (20,882 movements). For the second month in a row, they exceeded the levels observed during the pre-COVID-19 period (between March 2019 and March 2020, the daily average was 654). 82% of Ethiopian migrants decide to migrate for economic reasons while 8% leave the country because of conflict and food insecurity. Movements from Ethiopia have also increased significantly since the previous month, with a total of 14,495 entries in May (+62% compared to April) and 16,050 in June (+11% compared to May).

In contrast, departures to Ethiopia decreased by 5 percent compared to May with a total of 694 departures recorded in June

2022. Of the 23,363 movements recorded in June 2022 through Djibouti, 13% were recorded 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 2022, 3,423 returns from Yemen have been observed with a total of 537 in June 2022. In addition, some Ethiopian migrants transiting through Djibouti remain stranded there due to lack of resources to continue their journey. Thus, 544 people are stranded in 7 informal sites in the regions of Obock (58%) and Ali-Sabieh (42%).

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## DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

In the Obock region, IOM is providing life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants returning from the Arabian Peninsula. During the month of June, through the mobile unit, 1,191 migrants (924 men, 119 women, and 148 minors) received water, food, and emergency medical assistance along the desert coast of the Obock region. The Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock hosted 432 migrants (278 men, 60 women) including 94 unaccompanied children who were provided with water, food, non-food items, medical and psychosocial assistance.



*IOM mobile team assists migrants returning from Yemen in the desert of Obock © Photo: IOM Djibouti/2022*

With financial support from the European Union (EU-IOM Joint Initiative, DG ECHO), IOM continues to provide multi-sectoral assistance to meet the basic needs of migrants staying at the centre and wishing to return to their country of origin.



## RETOUR AND REINTEGRATION

In the framework of its Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program, IOM assisted 186 extremely vulnerable migrants (143 men, 34 women) including 43 unaccompanied children to return to Ethiopia on an informed and voluntary basis. 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. Through the Canadian government's refugee resettlement program, IOM teams facilitated the departure of three persons with refugee status to Canada. In addition, a departure of 5 other refugees to Sweden was organized through the resettlement of refugees in Sweden project. The beneficiaries of this project were able to benefit from training on the culture and customs of the host country before their departure to facilitate their integration in the host country.



*A group of migrants benefiting from the Assisted Voluntary Return program board a bus to reach the capital City of Djibouti © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021*



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

To support the efforts of the Government of Djibouti in managing migration and assisting vulnerable populations, His Excellency Mr. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Mrs. Mouna Osman Aden, Minister of Women and Family and Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi, IOM Chief of Staff, jointly inaugurated the new transit centre for vulnerable children and migrants in Djibouti. Through this centre, children and migrants in vulnerable situations will benefit from tailored assistance provided by IOM and its partners. They will have access to shelter, medical and psychological care, in a calm and protected environment. This initiative is part of the projects "Protection and support of victims of trafficking and other forms of abuse and exploitation in Djibouti" and "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants living in Djibouti" funded respectively by the U.S. State Department and the European Union.

From June 29-30, 2022, IOM organized a consultation workshop with key partners to initiate the process for the development of a national referral mechanism for victims of abuse and other forms of exploitation in Djibouti. Representatives from the National Migration Coordination Office, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and the diplomatic representation in Djibouti discussed topics related to the identification of the needs of victims of abuse and exploitation, the different services that could be provided by potential actors and a possible distribution of roles and responsibilities of the different actors within this referral mechanism.



Group photo of the participants involved in the development of the referral mechanism © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

The development of this referral mechanism aims to establish a framework for collaboration between these actors in order to strengthen the services provided to victims of abuse and exploitation in Djibouti. This initiative is part of the implementation of the activities of the project "Protection and Support of Victims of Trafficking and Other Forms of Abuse and Exploitation in Djibouti" funded by the U.S. Department of State.



**COORDINATION**

On Tuesday 21 June 2022, IOM inaugurated its new Sub-Office in Tadjourah. IOM's Chief of Staff, Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi, the local authorities of the Tadjourah region and IOM's Chief of Mission in Djibouti, Ms. Stéphanie Daviot, participated in the inauguration ceremony.



Inauguration of the Tadjourah Sub-Office in the presence of local authorities and IOM officials © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

This office will strengthen IOM's efforts to meet the needs of vulnerable migrants attempting to cross the Gulf of Aden to reach the Arabian Peninsula in search of jobs, education and a better life.

In collaboration with local authorities, this new Sub-Office will also strengthen the provision of direct assistance to vulnerable migrants transiting through this region, including through the distribution of water, non-food items and the organization of awareness-raising activities on the risks and dangers of irregular migration, among other topics.



**AWARENESS RAISING ON THE RISKS AND DANGERS OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

On June 19, 2021, IOM organized a painting exhibition of artistic works by the artist Patrick Singh under the theme "on the other side, Djibouti" at the Villa Camille in Djibouti-Ville. Through fifty drawings and paintings, IOM Djibouti and the artist Patrick Singh recounted the story of migrants transiting through Djibouti. The majority of the migrants are Ethiopian and have decided to leave their country because of the insecurity, the difficult economic situation or the drought prevailing in their country. The artworks also highlight the reality faced by the local communities that host these migrants. All of the artworks have been put up for sale and the earnings will be donated to the host communities and vulnerable migrants. This initiative was implemented with the support of the Djibouti authorities and thanks to the financial support of the European Union within the framework of the project "Durable Solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants living in Djibouti territory".



Exhibition of drawings and paintings by artist Patrick Singh "on the other side of Djibouti" © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

From June 7 to 9, 2022, in collaboration with the Association Caravanes et Savoirs du Désert, IOM organized a story-writing workshop on the theme of the migratory journey at its Migrant Reponse Centre (MRC) in Obock. A group of Djiboutian writers spoke with 25 migrants hosted at the center, who detailed their often difficult travels and journeys from Ethiopia to Saudi Arabia.



Discussion on migration journeys at the Obock's Migration Response Centre (MRC) © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

From June 12-16, 2022, authors from « Association Caravanes et Savoirs du Désert » presented their stories to a dozen high school teachers during the "Nouvelles" writing workshops. The five days of writing resulted in the production of poems and literary texts that transpose the real stories of migrants into imaginary stories. Twenty short stories were written during the workshop and focused on the theme of the return journey of migrants. These short stories will be published in a collection that will be printed in multiple copies and will serve as a means of raising awareness of the dangers and risks of irregular migration. These initiatives are part of the "Joint EU-IOM Initiative for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in the Horn of Africa" project funded by the European Union.



## MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The Djibouti National Institute of Statistics Office and IOM together celebrated the two-year anniversary of the Migration Unit. Established in June 2020, the Migration Unit was set up by the two institutions to meet the need to produce and disseminate data on migration in Djibouti. These data are essential to inform national migration policies, strengthen partners' thematic responses, and promote a better understanding of migration.



Célébration du 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversaire de la création de la cellule des études sur la migration dans les locaux de l'INSTAD. © Photo : OIM Djibouti 2022.

Officials of the Statistical Institute of Djibouti and representatives of IOM participated in this celebration. This ceremony was organized within the framework of the regional migration program of IOM-PRM in Africa.

During this month, 20 IOM staff members were trained on United Nations standards of conduct on sexual exploitation and abuse and obligations as UN staff.



Participants in the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training receive their certificates © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022.

Through discussions and case studies, participants were informed about the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, how to prevent them and the consequences of such abuse. To date, all IOM Djibouti staff have been trained on the issue, which is a mandatory course for all UN staff.