

**Celebration of the World Mental Health Day** at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock.

**Celebration of the national environment week** in the Obock region.

**Celebration of the international day of rural women** in Dikhil region.

**Validation workshop of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)** for victims of human trafficking, abuse and other forms of exploitation in Djibouti.



*Launch of the World Mental Health Day through an awareness raising session on the topic at the MRC in Obock © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022*

## HIGHLIGHTS

On Monday, October 10, 2022, IOM Djibouti celebrated World Mental Health Day in its Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock through a series of group discussion and awareness-raising activities on the topics of mental health and psychosocial well-being in the migration context. From October 10 to 12, 2022, IOM organized a capacity building workshop for 26 frontline actors involved in the protection of vulnerable populations on tools related to the identification and referral of victims of human trafficking, abuse and other forms of exploitation. This workshop was followed by the validation meeting of the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking, abuse and other forms of exploitation in Djibouti. As part of the National Environment Week, on Thursday 20 October 2022, IOM, in collaboration with its partners, conducted activities to raise awareness among all

stakeholders on the importance of environmental protection in the Obock region.

On the occasion of International Rural Women's Day, Thursday, October 20, 2022, IOM Djibouti, the Ministry of Women and Family (MFF), the National Union of Djibouti Women (UNFD) and the local authorities of the Dikhil region jointly organized an exhibition of poultry and handicraft products produced by the two local cooperatives of Kontali and Chekeyti which benefited from IOM financial and technical support.

During the month of October, the number of entries observed at the various transit points increased by 18% compared to last month, from 18,773 entries from Ethiopia during September, to 22,083 entries during this month.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

In October 2022, 22,083 movements were observed by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) at key transit points in Djibouti, a daily average of 712 movements. Migration flows increased by 18% compared to September 2022 (18,773 movements). Of these 22,083 movements, 3,453 (16%) were observed 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, 4,824 returns from Yemen have been observed with a total of 648 in October 2022. In 2022, 123,058 migrants from Ethiopia returned to Djibouti.

In October, a total of 15,664 arrivals from Ethiopia were recorded, an increase of 18% compared to September 2022. This increase may indicate improved security conditions along the migration routes between Ethiopia and Djibouti, although movements due to the current drought may also be related to this increase. Similarly, outflows to Ethiopia were observed with a total of 128 in October.

On the other hand, some Ethiopian migrants transiting through Djibouti remain stranded there due to lack of resources to continue their journey. Thus, 1,317 people (92 percent male and 8 percent female) were stranded in seven informal sites in the regions of Tadjourah (26 percent), Obock (21 percent), and Dikhil (45 percent), while 8 percent were transiting through Ali-Sabieh.

## CONTACTS



## DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

In October, IOM teams in Obock continued to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants returning from the Arabian Peninsula. Since the beginning of this month, through the mobile unit, 570 migrants (398 men and 102 women) and 70 unaccompanied children (48 boys and 22 girls) have received water, food, and emergency medical assistance along the desert coast of the Obock region. In the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock 229 vulnerable migrants (167 men, 16 women) including 46 unaccompanied children (37 boys and 9 girls) received food, water, non-food item (NFI) assistance, and medical and psychosocial support.



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

With the financial support from the European Union (EU-IOM Joint Initiative, DG ECHO), IOM continues to meet the basic needs of migrants staying at the center who wish to return to their country of origin.



## RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Thanks to the support of the European Union within the framework of the "EU-IOM Joint Initiative for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in the Horn of Africa" project, 138 migrants were able to benefit from the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program to Ethiopia. This group of 96 men, 13 women and 29 unaccompanied children were able to return to Ethiopia on an informed and voluntary basis. Upon their return to Ethiopia, the migrants are provided with appropriate assistance to reintegrate and rebuild their lives in their home communities. In addition, IOM teams have facilitated the departure to Canada of 8 people (5 men and 3 women) through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program. Another refugee's departure was also coordinated to the United States as part of the



*Beneficiaries of the Assisted Voluntary Return Program at Djibouti airport on their way to Ethiopia © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022*

project funded by the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP). The beneficiaries of this project were trained on the culture and customs of the host country before their departure in order to facilitate their integration.



## PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

On Monday, October 10, 2022, IOM Djibouti celebrated World Mental Health Day in its Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock through group discussion sessions and awareness raising activities on the topics of mental health and psychosocial well-being in the context of migration. Migrants hosted at the center participated in recreational and artistic activities in order to express their thoughts, positive or negative emotions as well as the difficulties they faced during their migratory journey.



*Drawing and painting workshop for migrants living in Obock COAM © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022*



Subsequently, three rounds of separate small group discussions were conducted with the children, women and men, taking into account the needs of each category. These discussions emphasized that it is normal to feel destabilized after stressful events and encouraged the groups to share their coping strategies. The day ended with a coffee ceremony and a traditional Ethiopian dance to reinforce the sense of family and community that is essential to the balance of the group. Celebrated every year, the main objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues and mobilize efforts to support this cause around the world. This day is an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work. These activities are implemented within the framework of the "EU-IOM Joint Initiative for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in the Horn of Africa" program funded by the European Union.

In the framework of the International Day of Rural Women, on Thursday, October 20, 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Ministry of Women and Family (MFF), the National Union of Women of Djibouti (UNFD) and the local authorities of the Dikhil region jointly organized an exhibition of poultry and handicraft products made by the two local cooperatives of Kontali and Chekeyti that have benefitted from technical and financial support from IOM.



Women's cooperatives in the Dikhil region display handicrafts on the occasion of International Rural Women's Day © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

The establishment of these two poultry cooperatives will improve the livelihoods and income of 20 women through the production and commercialization of poultry products. The 20 women have also benefited from training to strengthen their knowledge in the field of poultry farming. This initiative is a significant step contributing to the economic empowerment of vulnerable

populations living in this region and in particular that of the women's cooperatives targeted by this project. This activity is part of the implementation of the activities of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants living in Djibouti territory" funded by the European Union.



## PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In the framework of the national week of environment, on Thursday 20 October 2022, the International Organization for Migration in collaboration with the local authorities of Obock region, the United Nations agencies (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disasters Victims (ONARS), the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD), the host community of Obock, Migrants and Refugees, conducted activities to raise awareness among all stakeholders on the importance of environmental protection.



Launch of the awareness campaign on plastic waste management and transformation with partners in Obock © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

Waste collection activities were carried out in the Fantaherou neighborhood on the outskirts of Obock, in the refugee village of Markazi and around the IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock. The day started with an awareness raising of the participants on waste management and on the initiatives to be taken in order to contribute to the protection of the environment in Djibouti. At the national level, this week was coordinated by the Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Environment and the UNDP through a massive communication campaign, to raise the essential issues of protection and preservation of the environment and its consequences on the quality of life of the Djiboutian population.



These activities are part of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants living in Djibouti Territory" funded by the European Union.



Garbage collection in the outskirts of Obock and in particular in the district of Fanteherou located a few kilometers from the city of Obock © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022



### FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING

From October 10 to 12, 2022, IOM organized a capacity building workshop on tools related to the identification and referral of victims of human trafficking, abuse and other forms of exploitation.

A total of 26 frontline actors involved in the protection of vulnerable populations were trained on detection, conducting an identification interview, risk and needs assessment of potential victims, case management and data protection.



Photo of participants at the capacity building workshop on operational procedures for immigration officers © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

Theoretical presentations on key concepts were conducted, followed by open discussions and debates. The workshop was also punctuated by exchanges on good practices as well as practical exercises on real and fictitious cases of victims of trafficking.

On the morning of October 13, 2021, IOM Djibouti coordinated the validation workshop of the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking, abuse and other forms of exploitation in Djibouti. This workshop concluded a series of discussions, exchanges and meetings held since June regarding the establishment of this mechanism. A total of 25 representatives from Ministries, the National Migration Coordination Office, UN agencies, civil society organizations and the diplomatic representation in Djibouti adopted the outline of the national referral mechanism document. This document aims to establish a framework for collaboration between frontline actors in order to facilitate and strengthen the services provided to victims of trafficking, abuse and other forms of exploitation in Djibouti.



Group photo of the actors who contributed to the development and validation of the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking, abuse and other forms of exploitation in Djibouti © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2022

These initiatives are 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.