

Signature of an agreement between IOM Djibouti and the Balbala Hospital "Cheicko" to provide medical assistance for vulnerable migrants and local community.

Launch of the Regional Migration Response Plan (MRP) on 14 February 2023 in Nairobi in the presence of the IOM General Director.

MRC team won volleyball competition trophy, in the third sports edition of the Obock region organized by the State Secretariat for Youth and Sports.



The volleyball team of the Migration Response Center (MRC) of Obock holding the trophy of the competition © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

During the month of February, IOM Djibouti and the Balbala Hospital "Cheicko" signed an agreement for the provision of health services to vulnerable migrants. This collaboration between the two institutions will strengthen access to medical care for the most vulnerable migrants living in Djibouti and provide sustainable solutions to meet the health needs of migrants.

To address the needs of migrants on the Eastern Route, the governments of Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti and Yemen, IOM, as coordinator of the Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) in the Horn of Africa and Yemen, launched an appeal for USD 84 million on 14 February 2023 in Nairobi, in the presence of IOM Director General Mr. Antonio Vitorino.

The Republic of Djibouti was represented by the IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission, Ms. Tanja Pacifico, Ms. Ifrah Ali Ahmed, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Interior, and Ms. Amana Awaleh Omar, from the National Migration coordination office.

The Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen includes urgent humanitarian and protection interventions to save lives and improve access to basic services for migrants and host communities, while ensuring medium- and long-term actions to address the drivers of migration.

A team from the Migration Response Center took part in these sporting events. At the end of the competition, the migrant team won the volleyball championships.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In February 2023, 20,237 movements were observed by the Movement Tracking Matrix (DTM) at key transit points in Djibouti, for a daily average of 778 movements. Migration flows decreased by 19 compared to January (24,001 movements).

Of these 20,237 movements, 3,814 (19 percent) 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 with a total of 493 in February 2023. In 2023, 30,083 migrants from Ethiopia returned to Djibouti.

In February, a total of 13,390 arrivals from Ethiopia were recorded, a decrease of 20 percent compared to January 2023. This decrease may be due to the relative security conditions in some parts of Ethiopia limiting migrants' access to the routes leading to Djibouti.

In addition, some Ethiopian migrants transiting through Djibouti remain stranded there due to lack of resources to continue their journey. Thus, 773 people (81% male and 19% female) were stranded in 4 informal sites in the regions of Tadjourah (30%), Obock (45%), while 11% in Dikhil and 15% transited through Ali-Sabieh.

CONTACTS



DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS

During the month of February, the mobile unit was able to provide emergency assistance to 1,341 migrants, including 1,215 adults (composed of 1,023 men and 192 women) and 126 children (including 15 girls and 111 boys). At the Migration Response Center in Obock, assistance with food, non-food items (NFIs), and medical and psychosocial support was provided to 93 vulnerable migrants consisting of 67 adults (55 men and 12 women) and 26 minors (25 boys, 01 girls).



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

With financial support from the European Union, IOM Djibouti continues to meet the basic needs of migrants staying at the center who wish to return to their country of origin.



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

During this month, among the migrants hosted at Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock, IOM Djibouti assisted 19 vulnerable migrants to return to Ethiopia in a safe, voluntary and informed manner. This movement was organized with financial support from the European Union under the project "Durable solutions for migrant, refugee and host communities living in Djibouti territory". Upon their return to Ethiopia, the 19 adult migrants (10 men and 9 women) will receive appropriate assistance to reintegrate and rebuild their lives in their home countries.



*Beneficiaries of the assisted voluntary return program board a bus bound for Djibouti airport
© Photo : IOM Djibouti 2022*

During the month of January, IOM Djibouti teams registered and documented 408 migrants with the support of the Ethiopian Embassy.



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

On February 12, 2023, an agreement was signed between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Balbala Hospital "Cheiko" for the provision of health services. The signing ceremony of the agreement was presided over by Mr. Moussa Ibrahim Sougueh, Director of Balbala Hospital in the presence of Ms. Tanja Pacifico, Chief of IOM Djibouti Mission.

This collaboration between the two institutions will strengthen access to medical care for the most vulnerable migrants living in Djibouti and provide sustainable solutions to meet health needs. IOM is working with Balbala Hospital to promote health care for the community as well as for migrants living in Djibouti.

With funding from the European Union, under the project "Durable solutions for migrant, refugee and host communities living in Djibouti territory", Balbala Hospital will be able to strengthen its capacity and expand its scope of work, which will better address the health needs of the local population.



Mrs. Tanja Pacifico and Mr. Moussa Ibrahim Sougueh during the signing of the agreement © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2023

MIGRATION AND GOVERNANCE



Each year, more than 250,000 migrants, including young men, women, and children, leave their countries in the Horn of Africa for the Gulf countries in search of better livelihoods. Recent trends indicate an increase in the movement of young women and children, who in 2022 accounted for 32 percent of those moving along the route. According to recent IOM data, more than 45,000 migrants are currently stranded on the eastern route.

The Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) for the Horn of Africa and Yemen includes urgent humanitarian and protection interventions to save lives and improve safe and dignified access to basic services for migrants and transit, host and return communities, while ensuring medium- and long-term actions to address the drivers of migration. Within the broader inter-agency framework developed by IOM in coordination with 40 non-governmental and intergovernmental partners at the regional and country level, IOM will support governments and other partners in building their capacity for better migration management and in providing sustainable socio-economic infrastructure to support communities of origin, transit and destination. To address the needs of migrants on the eastern route, the governments of Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti and Yemen, IOM, as coordinator of the MRP for migrants from the Horn of Africa and Yemen, launched an \$84 million appeal on February 14, 2023 in Nairobi, in the presence of IOM Director General Antonio Vitorino.

Djibouti was represented by the chief of IOM Djibouti Mission, Ms. Tanja Pacifico, Ms. Ifrah Ali Ahmed, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Interior, and Ms. Amana Awaleh Omar, from the National Coordination office for Migration.



IOM Djibouti team accompanied by the Senior Advisor of the Ministry of Interior and the representative of the National Migration Coordination Office at the launch of the Regional Migrant Response Plan (MRP) in Nairobi on 14 February 2023, © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2023

SPORT EDITION



The third sports edition of the Obock region took place on February 3 and 4, 2023, under the high patronage of the Secretary of State for Sports, H.E. Hassan Mohamed Kamil. Competitions in different disciplines were organized.

A team from the Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock took part in these sporting events. At the end of the competition, the migrants team won the Volleyball tournament with great success. This community activity allows migrants to get involved in the local community and create important social links. During their migratory journey, migrants have usually experienced many traumas. The stress of conflict, natural disasters, famine, poverty or other emergencies, and mass displacement can have a significant impact on migrants, families and communities. It is essential to consider the mental health of displaced populations. Participation in community sports events like this one can help strengthen the mental health of migrants and is in line with the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities conducted at the Migration Response Center in Obock (MRC).