

Launch of a malaria prevention campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in neighborhoods of Djibouti City.

982 migrants benefited from a life-saving assistance through IOM's mobile unit in Obock region.

Two refugee resettlement operations to the United States.

A handover ceremony of the Fab-Lab between IOM and the University of Djibouti.



Meeting a man returning from the Arabian Peninsula during an outing of the IOM mobile unit in the Obock region. Photo credit: Alexander BEE.

HIGHLIGHTS

IOM continues to assist vulnerable migrants in the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock where they receive food, non-food items (NFI), medical and psychosocial assistance thanks to the support of European Union.

Through the set up of its mobile unit in July 2020, IOM teams have been providing life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants transiting through the Obock region. Water, food and emergency first-aid care are

delivered. After their referral to IOM's Migration Response Center (MRC), the most vulnerable ones can benefit from the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program to Ethiopia.

Capacity building of the various technical ministries involved in the management of migration flows continues, particularly through the implementation of the project "Durable solutions for host populations, refugees and migrants in Djibouti", funded by the European Union.

IOM has also supported the government's efforts in malaria prevention. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, awareness-raising campaigns targeting the most vulnerable populations in the Ambouli and Arhiba neighborhoods took place this month.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) program teams continued to observe movements at the various flow monitoring points across the country.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Over the month of January 2021, 8 341 movements were counted across the FMP across Djibouti, an average of 269 movements per day. This represents a decrease of 21% compared to the movements followed during the month of December 2020.

Among these 8 341 movements, 12% observed in the Obock region, the entry/exit point for migrants to cross the Aden Strait towards the Arab peninsula.

Along this migration route called "route of the East", 2 388 entries were observed from the western borders of Djibouti on the one hand. On the other hand, 1558 arrivals from Yemen have been counted, bringing to 7 652 the number of migrants on their way back to Ethiopia since May 2020.



Aerial view of a group of migrants in the Obock region. Photo Credit : Alexander BEE.

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DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS

In January, IOM teams in Obock continued to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants returning from the Arabian Peninsula. The mobile unit assisted nearly 982 people this month, 68 of whom required emergency medical care. IOM Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock received 173 vulnerable persons during the month, including 76 unaccompanied minors and one elderly person.



Aerial view of the IOM MRC in Obock. Photo credit: Alexander BEE

Thanks to funding from the European Union (EU-IOM Joint Initiative, DG ECHO), IOM's MRC teams have been able to provide multisectoral assistance to meet the basic needs of migrants staying at the center, but also those in transit to Ethiopia.



MIGRATION AND HEALTH

IOM, in collaboration with the National Malaria Control Programme (PNLP) of the Ministry of Health, organized awareness activities on the risks and preventive measures against malaria for nearly 10,000 people in the districts of Ambouli and Arhiba where migrants reside. These activities were complemented by the distribution of 7,500 impregnated mosquito nets (Long Lasting Insecticide Impregnated Mosquito Net, LLIN) to migrants and host communities in these neighborhoods. In order to ensure a good dissemination of awareness messages, IOM and the PNLP identified and trained peer educators able to speak Amharic, Tigray and Oromo languages. This activity is part of the project entitled "Durable Solutions for Refugees, Host Communities and Migrants in Djibouti", funded by the European Union.



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

During the month of January, IOM teams were able to organize the departure of five people with refugee status to the United States under the *Resettlement to the USA* funded by the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP). Within MRC, the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program funded by the European Union continues to benefit the most vulnerable migrants. Thus, two return movements to Ethiopia were under preparation this month, notably through the process of obtaining travel documents for 109 people.



EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

As part of the empowerment activities for vulnerable populations targeted by the project "Durable Solutions for Refugees, Host Communities and Migrants in Djibouti", it is planned to implement income-generating activities (IGAs). IOM teams in collaboration with focal points from the Ministry of Women and the Family (MFF), the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have carried out a mission to identify projects led by people with refugee status. At the end of January, 88 IGA projects were evaluated, of which 25 will be selected.



MIGRATION AND INNOVATION

Students from the Faculty of Engineering, including Djiboutians returning from abroad and members of the diaspora, attended the handover ceremony of the Fab-Lab youth-led manufacturing laboratory this January. The Fab-Lab, with funding from the IOM Development Fund, provided 13 months of training on digital development and access to equipment such as 3D printers and laser cutters for returning Djiboutian youth, migrants and the local community. In collaboration with the University of Djibouti, this space has helped to increase employment and learning opportunities in technology and to strengthen start-up and entrepreneurial initiatives. The project has forged strong partnerships with the private sector, academia and government at both national and international levels. The University of Djibouti Fab-Lab is now part of the global network of 1300 Fab-Labs around the world.

This marks the end of a pioneering intervention in migration and development for IOM based on the fusion of technology, innovation and migration. The project funding will be taken over by the World Bank in the future, and will be managed by the University of Djibouti.