

Celebration of the 4th anniversary of the EU-IOM joint initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration.

Inauguration of the Global Djibouti Diaspora office.

1 163 migrants received emergency assistance through the IOM mobile unit in the Obock region.

52 vulnerable migrants benefited from the Assisted Voluntary Return program.

Two refugee resettlement operations to Canada.



Speech by the IOM Head of Mission at the celebration of the 4th anniversary of the EU-IOM joint initiative. Credit: Moustapha Mohamed.

HIGHLIGHTS

Migrants returning from Yemen receive multi-sectoral assistance at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock. They are housed in the MRC where they receive water, food, non-food items, and medical and psychosocial assistance before returning home through the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program.

Since July 2020, IOM has also set up a mobile unit to assist migrants arriving on the coast in Obock.

As part of the project « Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations,

refugees and migrants in Djibouti », a training on project creation and management was organized for 23 refugee women at the social action center for the empowerment of women (CASAF in French).

IOM Djibouti celebrated the 4th anniversary of the EU-IOM joint initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration funded by the European Union Trust Fund at the MRC in Obock on 23 March 2021.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, IOM inaugurated the Global Djibouti Diaspora office in the Salam Tower.

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 March 2021, 14 082 movements were counted across the Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) across Djibouti, an average of 454 movements per day. This represents an increase of 4% compared to the daily average of 435 movements observed during the month of february 2021.

Among these 14 082 movements, 10% 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", 7 742 entries were observed from the western borders of Djibouti on the one hand. On the other hand, 2 343 arrivals from Yemen have been counted, bringing to 11 222 the number of migrants on their way back to Ethiopia since May 2020.



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

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DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS

IOM provides life-saving assistance to vulnerable migrants arriving in Obock from Yemen. During the month of March, thanks to the mobile unit, 1163 migrants (1082 men and 16 women), including 65 minors arriving from Yemen, were provided with water, food and medical assistance. Within the Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock, 251 vulnerable migrants received food, water, non-food item (NFI) assistance, and medical and psychosocial support.

With funding from the European Union (EU-IOM Joint Initiative, DG ECHO), IOM continues to assist migrants staying at the center, but also those in transit to Ethiopia.



Aerial view of IOM's COAM in Obock. Credit: Alexander Bee.



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

During the month of March, 3 voluntary return movements allowed 52 extremely vulnerable migrants hosted at the IOM's MRC to return safely to Ethiopia. Among them were: 13 women, 8 men, 6 children and 25 unaccompanied minors. These returns were made possible by the Assisted Voluntary Return program, funded by the European Union. IOM teams also assisted two refugees who were resettled to Canada under the: Government-Assisted Refugees Program (GAR).



EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Within the framework of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants in Djibouti" funded by the European Union, 23 refugee women were trained on the creation and management of projects within the social action center for the empowerment of women (CASAF). This training is part of a capacity building program for refugees women in this center. It aims to equip these vulnerable women with the tools to manage projects and contribute to their economic empowerment.

During this month, within the framework of the project "Emergency multisectoral assistance to migrants stranded due to the Covid-19" funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), recreational activities for migrant women living at the MRC in Obock were organized in collaboration with a local NGO. These workshops enabled these women to weave traditional baskets and learn skills that will be useful to them back home.



Recreational activities for migrant women in the MRC of Obock Credit: IOM Djibouti.



PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

A training was organized by IOM and the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD) on March 15 and 16, 2021 in Ali Sabieh. Police officers from the Guélilé border post, those from the screening center, as well as members of the Red Crescent, the prefecture, the regional council and the gendarmerie of Ali Sabieh were trained on the identification and referral of victims of gender-based violence. This training, which is funded by the European Union through the project "Response to the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the IGAD region", aimed to build the capacity of actors involved in the management of the coronavirus pandemic at the borders.



Training on identification and referral of GBV victims. Credit: IOM Djibouti



MIGRATION AND GOVERNANCE

Within the framework of the project "Better Migration Management" (BMM) in Djibouti, co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), a workshop to validate a training manual on trafficking in persons was held on March 04, 2021 at the IOM Djibouti office. This workshop was attended by representatives of the International School of Criminal Police Practice (EI3PJ), the Idriss Farah Abaneh Police Academy and the Ministry of Justice.

Following the validation of this manual, two training workshops were organized on March 14-15 and 16-17 respectively at APIFA and EI3PJ. 5 trainers from the Police and 6 trainers from the Gendarmerie participated in these training workshops.



Validation and training workshops on the trafficking in persons manual. Credit: IOM Djibouti

On March 14, 2021, IOM inaugurated the office of the Global Djibouti Diaspora in Salam Tower. This office is funded by the IOM Development Fund and is part of the project "Engaging the Djiboutian Diaspora through the development of a national strategy and mapping". The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mr. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, the head of mission of IOM Ms. Stephanie DAVIOT, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and national institutions involved in the project as well as members of the diaspora back in Djibouti.



Inauguration of the Global Djibouti Diaspora office in Salam Tower. Credit: IOM Djibouti

IOM held a training on "Protection Capacity Building" from March 23 to 25 at the Hotel Acacias. Thanks to this training, which is part of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants in Djibouti" co-funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), IOM was able to train participants from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity, the National Union of Djiboutian Women, Caritas, the Brigade of Minors, the Coast Guard and ONARS. The trainers were able to discuss various protection issues with the actors and make important protection recommendations.



Capacity building of partners in the field of protection. Credit: IOM Djibouti



MANAGING MIGRATION FLOWS

On March 25, 2021, IOM, in collaboration with 39 development and humanitarian partners and government representatives from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, launched an appeal for USD 99 million to enhance assistance to migrants under the Horn of Africa and Yemen Migrant Response Plan (2021-2024). The launch of the plan in Djibouti was attended by the Executive Secretary of ONARS, Hussein Hassan Darar.

On March 23, 2021, at the MRC in Obock, IOM celebrated the 4th anniversary of the EU-IOM joint initiative program for the protection and reintegration of migrants funded by the European Union Trust Fund. The celebration began with a volleyball tournament followed by testimonies of migrants and a play organized by the MRC residents. The refugees from the Markazi camps participated in this day as well as the partners present in Obock: UNHCR, WFP, ONARS, Association Rebo, Red Crescent, police, and gendarmerie. The closing ceremony was organized in the presence of the Prefect and the President of the Regional Council of Obock, the Head of European Union Cooperation, the European Union Program Officer and the IOM Chief of Mission.



Presentation of trophies to the lucky winners of the competitions. Credit: OIM Djibouti



IOM - IGAD COLLABORATION

IOM and IGAD held a meeting in Mombassa (Kenya) on March 25-26, 2021 to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions and identify key areas of cooperation. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary General of IGAD, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu and the IOM Director for East and Horn of Africa, Mr. Mohammed Abdiker. Issues related to the assistance and protection of migrants, mobility and regional integration, social cohesion and inclusion, and capacity building were discussed during this meeting.



IOM and IGAD regional consultation meeting. Credits: IGAD-Secretariat