

Signature of a memorandum of understanding with UNICEF.

Visit of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh, to the Obock Migration Response Centre (MRC).

146 received emergency assistance through the IOM mobile unit in the Obock region.

29 vulnerable migrants benefited from the Assisted Voluntary Return program.

Training on fodder cultivation for Fantaherou community, in Obock.



Signature of a memorandum of understanding by the IOM Chief of Mission, Ms. Stéphanie DAVIOT and the UNICEF representative, Ms. Melva JOHNSON © Photo :IOM Djibouti 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

IOM has signed a memorandum of understanding with UNICEF to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions on various areas.

The Minister of Health, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh, visited the IOM's Migration Response Center in Obock, as part of the accelerated vaccination campaign against COVID-19. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, IOM trained 14 Ethiopian peer educators on the benefits

and risks of vaccination against COVID-19.

As part of the implementation of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change project, 20 beneficiaries from the Fantaherou community in Obock were trained on fodder cultivation.

On October 10, 2021, IOM celebrated the International Mental Health Day through the organization of recreational activities aimed at raising awareness among migrants

hosted at the Obock's MRC.

In collaboration with the prefecture of Dikhil, IOM proceeded to the distribution of non-food items for the benefit of vulnerable migrants in the Dikhil region.

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

During the month of October 2021, 13,539 movements were counted across the flow monitoring points in Djibouti, an average of 437 movements per day. This represents a 40% increase from the daily average of 312 movements observed during September. Among these 13,539 movements, 32% were observed in Obock, in the northern coastal region of Djibouti, where migrants cross the Gulf to the Arabian Peninsula. Along this migration route, called the "Eastern route," 6,532 entries were observed from Ethiopia. Since the beginning of 2021, a total of 67,480 arrivals from Ethiopia have been counted on one hand. On the other hand, 261 arrivals from Yemen were counted, bringing to 16,252 the number of migrants on their way back to Ethiopia since May 2020. In the same period, 536 exits to Ethiopia were observed.



Migrants gathered on the heights of Obock pray for a calm sea and a safe crossing. Photo: © IOM Djibouti / Alex BEE .

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DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

IOM provided shelter, water, food, non-food items and medical and psychosocial assistance to 255 extremely vulnerable migrants (183 men, 20 women) including 52 children housed at the Migration Response Centre in Obock. During the month of October, the mobile unit was able to provide emergency water, food and medical assistance to 146 migrants (132 men, 11 women) including 3 minors in the Obock region. With the financial support from the European Union, IOM continued to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants returning from the Arabian Peninsula, as well as to those who choose to return to their countries of origin.



RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Thanks to the support of the European Union, 29 extremely vulnerable minor migrants (25 boys and 4 girls) were able to benefit from the IOM voluntary return program. This return was financed by the "EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrants Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa". Upon arrival, migrants were temporarily housed in transit centre where they were informed of the available reintegration assistance and given support to reach their final destination.

This decrease in the number of returns can be explained by the worsening of the conflict in some parts of Ethiopia, which led to a temporary suspension of the voluntary return movements.

During this month, IOM teams assisted 15 refugees (4 women and 11 men) who were resettled in Canada under the Government-Assisted Refugees Program (GAR). The departure of one person with refugee status to the United States was also organized under the Resettlement to the USA funded by the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP).



MIGRATION AND GOVERNANCE

On October 26, 2021, IOM and UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding that aims to strengthen collaboration between the two agencies on thematic topics related to child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and mental health for populations targeted by both agencies. This agreement will facilitate the implementation of assistance and protection programs for migrants (including migrant children) and vulnerable populations in Djibouti.

From 24 to 27 October 2021, a first workshop on dead body management was organized by IOM and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tadjourah. This workshop brought together various partners who intervene in case of death on the migration corridor, including local authorities, representatives of the Ministry of Health, the gendarmerie and the

coast guard, and aimed to promote reflection on the proper and dignified management of mortal remains.



Dead body management workshop in Tadjourah © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021/ Abdallah Bourhan

A workshop on the same subject was held on October 28 in Djibouti City. This workshop strengthened the dialogue between representatives of ministries, local authorities and law enforcement on the mechanisms to implement for the management and identification of the mortal remains.



EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

In collaboration with the prefecture of Dikhil, IOM organized, from 24 to 26 September 2021, a distribution of non-food items for the benefit of vulnerable migrants in the region of Dikhil. 225 vulnerable migrants (50 men, 30 women, 45 girls and 100 boys) benefited from this assistance which is provided under the project "Direct Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants Transiting through the Northern parts of the Migration Corridor in Djibouti" funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). IOM continued its efforts to identify and assist vulnerable migrants along the migration corridor.



NFI kits distributions for migrants in Dikhil © Photo : IOM Djibouti 2021

On the occasion of the celebration of the World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2021, IOM organized a series of recreational activities aimed at contributing to the physical and mental well-being of migrants hosted at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) Obock.



Recreational and cultural activities of migrants at MRC © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021

By engaging in a variety of cultural and recreational activities, MRC's migrants had the opportunity to interact and share their stories. An initiative organized thanks to the support of the ECHO project, funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

Since the beginning of October, IOM has been supporting the Ministry of Health in the implementation of its accelerated vaccination campaign against COVID-19. Migrants in Djibouti are also included in this campaign and are being vaccinated against COVID-19.

Since October 12, 2021, at least 90 migrants transiting through the Obock's Migration Response Centre (MRC) have been vaccinated. As part of the national covid-19 vaccination campaign, the Ministry of Health and IOM have trained 14 Ethiopian peer educators on the benefits and risks of covid-19 vaccination who will sensitize and encourage migrant communities in Djibouti City to get vaccinated. These activities are being implemented with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).



Peer educators participating in the training © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021



PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As part of the accelerated vaccination campaign against COVID-19, the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh, visited the IOM's Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock. During this visit, IOM team was able to show the preventive measures and vaccination facilities set up for the benefit of migrants in the centre. In order to encourage all populations to be vaccinated against COVID-19, the Minister ended his visit by vaccinating a migrant in transit at the center.



Welcoming the Minister of Health at the Center for Orientation and Assistance to Migrants (COAM) in Obock © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021



MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A training session was organized on October 27, 2021, for 20 inhabitants of the community of Fantaherou, within the framework of the project on Migration, Environment and Climate change. The beneficiaries who participated in this training will be able to cultivate and manage a fodder plot in their locality and will be able to benefit from the income generated by it. These activities are financed by the IOM Development Fund.



Preparation of seedbed for fodder crop © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021/Abdallah Bourhan