

International training on Community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency situations.

Launch of the photography exhibition entitled "En Chemin".

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

13 refugees benefited from the resettlement program in the United States and Canada.

Donation of equipment to the COVID-19 screening center in Guélilé in Ali Sabieh and Galafi in Dikhil



Group photo of MHPSS training participants © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021/Abdallah Bourhan

## HIGHLIGHTS

An international training on Community-based Mental Health and psychosocial support in emergency situations was organized for civil society actors, IOM and government representatives of French-speaking African countries.

IOM launched a photo exhibition entitled "En Chemin" offering an unprecedented view of the lives of migrants and Djiboutian populations along the migration corridor in Djibouti.

In order to continue its support to the

Ministry of Health's response to the fight COVID-19 pandemic, IOM donated Personal and Protective equipment, medicines and office supplies to the screening centers of Guélilé (Ali-Sabieh) and Galafi (Dikhil).

In close collaboration with the prefectures of Dikhil and Ali Sabieh, IOM distributed non-food items to migrants and vulnerable communities in the southern regions of the country.

IOM in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Family (MFF), conducted a mission to monitor the results achieved in the framework of the community-based livelihood project implemented in the region of Dikhil. A total of 20 women received technical and financial support to set-up and manage small poultry farms.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

As the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region continues to intensify and is spreading to other regions in the country, migration flows to Djibouti have been slowly increasing since the start of the crisis in Ethiopia back in November 2020. On average, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been tracking approximately 6,200 entries into Djibouti per month and more than 81,000 Ethiopian migrants have entered Djibouti since the start of the conflict.

Almost all of the migrants entering Djibouti through its western borders come from the Oromia region in Ethiopia, followed by the Amhara region. Only a small percentage (less than 10%) originate from the Tigray region.

In addition, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen back to Djibouti have been observed since May 2020. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, these movements were

mainly due to movement restrictions imposed in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, the progressive deterioration of living conditions in Yemen triggered growing numbers of spontaneous returns, which continue to this day. Since the start of the year, more than 10,000 returns of Ethiopian migrants have been tracked along the coast of the Obock region, which is the main gateway to and from the Gulf States.

The DTM has also observed a number of Ethiopian migrants transiting through Djibouti who remain stranded in the country, mainly due to the lack of resources to continue their journey. As of 9 December 2021, 704 migrants (668 men, 5 women and 31 minors) are stranded in informal settlements, mainly in the region of Ali-Sabieh, where they have little to no access to basic services and are exposed to protection risks.

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## DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

In the Obock region, IOM continued to provide emergency assistance to migrants returning from Yemen. During the month of November, through the mobile unit, 396 migrants (345 men and 38 women) including 13 minors received water, food and medical assistance. The Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock received 253 vulnerable migrants (185 men, 32 women) including 36 minors (20 boys and 16 girls) who benefited from food, water, non-food items (NFI) assistance as well as medical and psychosocial support. IOM continued to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants returning from the Arabian Peninsula thanks to the financial support from The European Union.



## RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Due to the security situation in Ethiopia and the state of emergency declared for 6 months, IOM suspended its Assisted Voluntary Return operations to Ethiopia. In November, IOM assisted 13 refugees (7 women and 6 men) who were resettled to Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) program. The departure of 3 persons (2 men and 1 woman) with refugee status to the United States was also organized under the "Resettlement to the USA" program funded by the United States Refugee Admission Program (USRAP).

In collaboration with the relevant governments, UNHCR and its partners, IOM resettles refugees to the United States, Canada, New Zealand and various European countries. Prior to their departure, refugees are provided with information about the culture and customs of their host countries to facilitate their integration at destination.



## MIGRATION AND GOVERNANCE

On November 8, 2021, IOM organized an international training on Community-based Mental Health and psychosocial support in emergency situations, in the presence of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh, IOM Chief of Mission, Ms. Stéphanie Daviot and the Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Djibouti and IGAD, Mr. Bernard François.

This four-day event brought together representatives of Djibouti authorities and civil society as well as members of the government and IOM staff from Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and the DRC. The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs and approaches in different countries, to exchange good practices and to create a regional platform to facilitate the sharing of experiences, tools and joint approaches between IOM, civil society actors and states entities.

On November 21, 2021, in the presence of the Prime Minister H.E. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed, the Ministers of Interior, Trade,

Ambassadors of the European Union, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the Resident Coordinator and representatives of UN agencies and the Prefect of the Obock region, IOM inaugurated a photo exhibition entitled "En chemin" at Villa Camille in Djibouti City. This event, which will last until December 9, 2021, offers an unprecedented image of the lives and journeys of migrants along the migration corridor in Djibouti, as well as of the host communities. Funds raised will be used to support vulnerable migrant women, men and children, as well as host families and communities.

This exhibition was organized within the framework of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants in Djibouti" implemented by IOM and funded by the European Union.



*IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission, Ms. Stéphanie Daviot presents the exhibited photos to the Prime Minister, H.E. Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed and the Minister of Interior, H.E. Saïd Nouh Hassan © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021/Abdallah Bourhan*



## EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

From 15 to 16 November 2021, IOM distributed non-food items to migrants and vulnerable communities in the southern regions of the country. In Dikhil, 195 adults and 75 minors, including 60 vulnerable people from the host community, benefited from this assistance. In the region of Ali Sabieh, 123 adults and 30 minors received this assistance which is provided under the project "Direct Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants Transiting through the Northern Migration Corridor in Djibouti" funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).



NFIs distribution to migrants and vulnerable communities in the southern regions of the country © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021

IOM works closely with local authorities and partners to identify and assist the most vulnerable migrants living in Djibouti.

IOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Family, visited 20 women in Kontali and Chekeyti who received technical and financial support to set up poultry farms.

Selected according to various vulnerability criteria, all beneficiaries received technical trainings as well as 4 chickens and a rooster in order to start and manage small-scale chicken farms.

Through this project, vulnerable women are able to generate additional income for their households.



A beneficiary of the economic empowerment project implemented in the Dikhil region © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021 /Alexander Bee.

As part of the preparation for the International Migrants Day from 24 to 25 November 2021, IOM organized a drawing and painting workshop for the benefit of migrants residing at the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock.

This workshop was facilitated by a painter and allowed the young migrants present in the center to become aware of the risks and dangers related to irregular migration. The drawings, which illustrate different migration themes, were made during these two

days and will be used to produce communication material for the International Migrants Day, scheduled in December.



Painting workshop on the risks of irregular migration for the benefit of migrants residing in COAM © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021

This activity was organized thanks to the "EU-IOM Joint Initiative for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in the Horn of Africa" program funded by the European Union.

On November 16, 2021, the prefect, the deputy of Obock, the Chief of Mission of IOM in Djibouti and the chief doctor of the CMH planted moringa trees at the CMH of Obock. These shrubs, which will contribute to the greening of the city of Obock, are grown in the nursery of the Migration Response Center (MRC).



Plantation des arbres de moringa au CMH D'Obock par le préfet d'Obock et la Cheffe de Mission de l'OIM © Photo : OIM Djibouti 2021/Alexander Bee.

The establishment of this nursery is one of the many psychosocial activities organized at the MRC for migrants who reside at the center.

A group of 11 representatives working in the field of child protection and composed of the Ministry of Women and Family, IOM staff in Obock, Caritas and the Red Crescent, participated in a training on child protection organized by IOM on November 29, 2021 in Obock.

The training was conducted by a UNICEF thematic expert and aimed at raising awareness on general child protection issues, communication with children and case management of children in emergency situations.



Child protection training in Obock © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021

IOM in close collaboration with the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD), trained on Tuesday 30 November and Wednesday 1 December 2021, 10 IOM staff members in Obock and 2 representatives of the Red Crescent on the identification and management of victims of gender-based violence.

These activities were carried out within the framework of the project "Direct Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants Transiting through the Northern Migration Corridor in Djibouti" funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the "EU-IOM Joint Initiative for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in the Horn of Africa" program funded by the European Union's Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.



### PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO COVID-19

IOM continues to work with the Ministry of Health to facilitate vaccination against COVID-19 in the regions (Tadjourah, Obock and Dikhil) as well as in several neighborhoods in Djibouti (Arhiba, Balbala and Quartier 6). Capacity building and awareness activities on COVID-19 have been conducted to promote the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine.

On November 4, 2021, IOM donated office supplies and medical equipment to the Ministry of Health. This donation was made as part of IOM's support to the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

The equipment will be distributed to vaccinodromes in Djibouti City and to Hospital Medical Centers in the different regions of the country to help strengthen vaccination activities throughout the country.

These interventions are funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).



Donation of equipment to representatives of the Ministry of Health © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021/Abdallah Bourhan

Within the framework of the project "EU Response to the Health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the IGAD region" funded by the European Union and in order to continue supporting the Ministry of Health in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM donated a batch of equipment to the newly established Covid-19 screening center in Galafi on Tuesday, 23 November 2021. Another batch of equipment was also donated to the Covid-19 screening center in Guéllilé, Ali Sabieh, on Monday 15 November 2021.

These donations of supplies consisted mainly of COVID-19 rapid tests, personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene and disinfection products, office furniture and medical equipment.



Donation of equipment to the Covid-19 screening center in Galafi © Photo: IOM Djibouti 2021