

**Celebration of the International Migrants Day** in Djibouti-City and at the Obock's Migration Reponse Centre (MRC).

**Training on migration management for members** of the National Coordination Office for Migration and government actors.

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

**3 refugees resettlement operations** to Canada and Sweden.

**2nd phase of the training** on fodder crops for the benefit of 20 beneficiaries fantiherou locality.



*Play performed by the migrants residing at the MRC during the International Migrants Day in Obock © Photo : IOM Djibouti 2021*

## HIGHLIGHTS

Like other IOM missions around the world, IOM Djibouti celebrated International Migrants Day in Djibouti City and at the Migration Response Center (MRC) in Obock.

A 5-day training on migration management was launched on December 12, 2021, for members of the National Coordination Office for Migration and government officials.

IOM donated electronic equipment and computer accessories to the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS – in French) to build the capacity of this organization to respond to the needs of vulnerable people in the country.

IOM organized in Dououl (Tadjourah) the second phase of its training on fodder cultivation for 20 beneficiaries living in the

locality of Fantiherou, located a few kilometers north of Obock city.

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

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

In December 2021, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) observed 9,766 movements at key transit points in Djibouti, representing a daily average of 315 movements. Migration flows remained stable compared to the month of November 2021. Of these 9,766 movements, 20% were observed in Obock. This coastal region of Djibouti is the main gateway for migrants going to and returning from the Arabian Peninsula through the Gulf of Aden, along the Eastern Route. Along this route, spontaneous returns of Ethiopian migrants from Yemen back to Djibouti continue to be observed, notably due to the progressive deterioration of living conditions in Yemen. Since the start of the year, more than 10,500 returns of Ethiopian migrants have been tracked. However, since August 2021, this number has been declining, reaching its lowest level in December 2021 (178 returns), mainly due to the

intensification of the Ethiopian crisis and the suspension of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) activities following the declaration of a nationwide state of emergency on November 2nd, 2021. Arrivals from Ethiopia also continued to gradually decline, with a total of 5,366 entries observed in December 2021, which represents an 18% decrease compared to October 2021. Since the onset of the Ethiopian crisis in November 2020, more than 86,000 Ethiopian migrants entered Djibouti. In addition, a number of Ethiopian migrants transiting through Djibouti remain stranded in the country, mainly due to the lack of resources to continue their journey: as of 6 January 2022, 106 migrants (67 men, 6 women and 33 children) are stranded in informal settlements 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 December, IOM teams in Obock continued to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants returning from the Arabian Peninsula. Thanks to the mobile unit, 144 migrants (133 men and 1 woman) including 10 children received water, food and medical assistance. At the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock, 242 vulnerable migrants (197 men, 12 women) including 31 children (30 boys and 3 girls) were provided with food, water, non-food items (NFIs) as well as 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 as well as those in transit to Ethiopia.



### RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

The Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program to Ethiopia remains suspended due to the security situation in the country and the state of emergency declared for 6 months since November 2, 2021. However, two migrants from Mali, in an extremely vulnerable situation in Djibouti, were able to benefit from this program and return to their country of origin.

In addition, a Djiboutian citizen was repatriated from Sudan and benefited from the reintegration program upon arrival.

During this month, IOM assisted a refugee who was resettled in Canada under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program (PSRP). The departure of 2 persons with refugee status to Sweden was also organized under the resettlement program. Prior to their departure, the refugees were provided with information about the culture and customs of their host countries to facilitate their integration at destination.



### MIGRATION AND GOVERNANCE

On December 15, 2021, as part of the celebration of the International Migrants Day, of which the theme was "People on the Move", IOM organized a conference-debate on the dangers of irregular migration with more than 200 youths from schools and community development centers of Djibouti City. The Chief of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Djibouti and IGAD, Mr. Bernard François, IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission, Ms. Stephanie Daviot and the Director of the Library and National Archives, Mr. Gueid Hassan participated in the opening ceremony of this event. The day began with a video screening on migration followed by a reading of poetry and stories.

It was concluded with a presentation of speakers and a debate with youths.



*Interaction between speakers and youths during the International Migrants Day celebration © Photo : IOM Djibouti 2021*

This day, which is celebrated worldwide every year to recognize the efforts, contributions and rights of migrants, was organized thanks to the financial support of the European Union through the project "Durable Solutions for the Most Vulnerable Host Populations, Refugees and Migrants living in Djibouti Territory".

On December 19, 2021, International Migrants Day was celebrated at the Obock's Migration Response Centre (MRC), with the commemorations of the launch of the "EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrants Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa", funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, in its fifth year. The event, aimed at promoting cohesion and cohabitation between migrants, refugees and host populations and "harnessing the potential of human mobility", brought together local authorities, migrants, refugees, host communities and IOM staff in Obock. Several fun and sports activities were organised during the day : volleyball, football, athletics, drawing and painting and a hearty lunch was served to the participants. The day ended in the afternoon with the traditional ceremony of awarding trophies to the winners of the competitions that had been organised.

A training session for the members of the National Coordination Office for Migration and Government representatives was launched in the presence of the Chargé d'affaires of the European Union delegation, Mr. Fabrice Basile, the IOM Chief of Mission, Ms. Stéphanie Daviot and the Coordinator of the National Coordination Office for Migration, Colonel Abdoukader Ibrahim Gona.



Clôture de la cérémonie de lancement de la formation sur la gestion de la migration © Photo : IOM Djibouti 2021/Abdallah Bourhan

This training, which took place from 12 to 16 December 2021, built the capacity of government actors working on migration topics on the basis of the national migration strategy that was officially launched in September 2021.



### EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

On December 12th 2021, in the presence of the Chief of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Djibouti and IGAD, Mr Bernard François, the IOM Chief of Mission, Ms Stéphanie Daviot and the Executive Secretary of ONARS, Mr Houssein Hassan, IOM donated electronic equipment mainly including computers, inverters, printers and computer accessories to the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS).



Donation of electronic equipment and accessories to ONARS Headquarters © Photo : IOM Djibouti 2021/Abdallah Bourhan

This donation, carried out within the framework of the project "Durable solutions for the most vulnerable host populations, refugees and migrants living in Djibouti territory" funded by the European Union, will help strengthen ONARS operational

capacities and better respond to the needs of vulnerable people including migrants living in Djibouti.

From 12 to 15 December 2021, IOM, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Information (DIS) of the Ministry of Health, conducted a training session for 53 health personnel (chief doctors, senior nurses, midwives and medical secretaries) working in the various health facilities of Djibouti City. The training aimed to build the capacity of those involved in health data collection tools and particularly in the use of the new health register. This new register will enable health staff to collect data on the management of medical cases, including migrants cases. Training for staff members in the regions will follow in the coming weeks.



### MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On Thursday, 9 December 2021, IOM organized in Dououlou, Tadjourah region, a second phase of its training on fodder cultivation for the benefit of 20 beneficiaries living in the locality of Fantaherou, located a few kilometres north of Obock town, where reside people who have left their place of origin due to climate change. 10 migrants hosted at the Migration Response Center (MRC) and 8 IOM staff members involved in the management of the MRC nursery in Obock also participated in this training.



Presentation of the agropastoral perimeter of Dououlou on the occasion of the training on fodder crops © Photo : IOM Djibouti 2021 .

Thanks to this training, the beneficiaries will be able to cultivate fodder plots and benefit from the generated income. These activities are part of the implementation of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) project, funded by the IOM Development Fund.