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Better Migration Management
Horn of Africa



Newsletter June 2017

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This is the second issue of the BMM **Newsletter** on the progress and developments in implementation of the Better Migration Management Programme (BMM). It aims at providing general information about BMM, updates on activities and progress in implementation to all relevant BMM stakeholders and members of the public.

Background and Conceptual Framework

Better Migration Management (BMM) is a regional development cooperation programme established under the [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#), which aims at addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF) (Horn of Africa Window). The goal of the BMM is to support the countries of the Horn of Africa region to enhance their cooperation and to adopt common approaches to improve migration management, thereby aiming at improving migration management in the region, and in particular to address the trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa. The programme is designed to respond to needs identified by the partner countries and take their priorities as starting point for the definition of programme activities. Alignment with existing mechanisms and initiatives of the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is key to the programme.

BMM is funded by the EUTF with EUR 40 Mio and by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with EUR 6 Mio. for a duration of 3 years (April 2016 to March 2019).

BMM implementation will take place in eight partner countries (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda). Egypt and Tunisia may be included in activities of a regional nature.

A more comprehensive overview is provided on the [GIZ website](#) including a full [Description of the Action](#).

Latest Activities and Next Steps

The period between the [first newsletter \(Dec. 2016\)](#) and this second issue has been mostly dedicated to further elaboration with the partner country governments on detailed implementation in each country, as well as regionally. In most countries (see details below) planning or verification workshops have been conducted to further discuss and specify country implementation with the relevant line ministries, Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and local implementing partners. Countries' priorities have been assessed and the broad outlines agreed to.

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■ Regional activities

A baseline assessment has successfully been conducted to determine the status and capacity of national governments to address migration-related matters in their countries in a systematic and comprehensive manner. The main aim of the assessment was to verify the basic assumptions regarding policy harmonisation within BMM. The findings have been presented and evaluated during a regional workshop in March 2017 with participation from the International Organization of Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union Commission (AUC).

The current state of implementation of the National Coordination Mechanisms (NCMs) was determined and is mentioned below in each of the respective countries' sections. NCMs are inter-ministerial platforms set up jointly by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and IOM under the regional migration policy framework (RMPF) to better facilitate government coordination on all issues of migration in the seven IGAD member states. BMM will support this process with value adding activities on the interface between regional and national activities in close liaison with IGAD and IOM.

BMM, jointly with the Kenyan NGO Haart, is organising a regional meeting of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Kenya at the beginning of July. National CSOs of the region of the broader Horn of Africa will exchange experiences and knowledge on response mechanisms for migrants in distress and for trafficking cases. The forum will come up with recommendations to build CSO capacity and set up a regional network of CSOs facilitating improved coordination of cross-border responses to human trafficking across the Eastern Africa region, as well as to promote safe migration.

■ Djibouti

On the basis of a planning workshop held in April 2017 with the government, concrete ideas for activities in all four components (Policy Harmonisation, Capacity Building, Protection and Awareness Raising) have been produced. These are being consolidated over the next month and will guide BMM implementation in the country for 2017/2018.

Among the planned activities is the introduction of five mobile health units in five regions that will provide urgently-needed health care for about 500 vulnerable migrants on the move, as well as the extension of a small health care centre in Obock, both for migrants and host communities. Djibouti is a transit country for migrants to Yemen and the Middle East as well as from Ethiopia and Somalia. In 2016, an average of 300 migrants travelled through the country each day.

A study on the special protection needs of unaccompanied minors and migrant children has been launched and will be evaluated at the end of July. It is expected to provide concrete insight and recommendations on how to address their needs.





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■ Eritrea

BMM's political partner in Eritrea will be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The government of Eritrea has established a "Migration Steering Committee". BMM will support this structure in dealing with migration issues, always on the basis of respect for human rights and the 'do-no-harm' principles. Awareness raising on the dangers of irregular migration is one of the priorities of the Eritrean government that will be implemented within the BMM framework. Details will be discussed over the coming months.

The needed capacity development measures for prosecutors and law enforcement officers regarding sensitisation towards human trafficking will be defined during an upcoming workshop conducted by UNODC and the Ministry of Justice.

■ Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling Task Force has been designated as the lead coordination agency on migration-related issues in the country and is the direct partner for BMM.

Within the framework of BMM, IOM facilitated the assisted voluntary return of 147 Ethiopians detained in Zambian jails after a presidential pardon in December 2016, as well as of about 100 Ethiopians returning voluntarily from Malawi. These Ethiopians had been migrating along the so-called "Southern Route" towards South Africa before being arrested and sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment by the high court for illegally crossing into Zambia. The programme is also assessing sustainable reintegration possibilities for these target groups, e.g. provision of livelihoods or skills upgrading in order to enhance employability and to allow these returnees a fresh start within their communities.

Assessments of referral systems for migrants are currently underway in the regions bordering Somalia and Sudan to gauge potential entry points for BMM in the area of protection services for vulnerable migrants.

■ Kenya

The Ministry of Interior has been verbally confirmed as political partner for BMM in Kenya, with the formalisation of this process ongoing. The existing National Migration Coordination Mechanism (NCM) has been established as the focal point for BMM.

BMM is cooperating with the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights (KNCHR) to develop training materials on migrant rights and to enhance the capacity of human rights institutions to promote migrant rights. BMM will provide trainings on migrant rights to relevant KNCHR staff throughout Kenya, making available the reference material developed and facilitating discussions on trafficking and migrant rights with their referral partner network. The material will also be made available for other activities in capacity building and protection and will be shared regionally.

BMM aims for a joint support to Kenya's migration data management efforts with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). A governmental facility is planned to host all migration-related academic and practical trainings, including a migration data centre which supports policy making with statistical data and research. BMM will support the coordination with stakeholders, including taking



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advantage of existing data and studies and encouraging relevant stakeholders to share experiences, with the aim to avoid duplication and take advantage of information and lessons learnt from other programmes.

■ **Somalia**

The Ministry of Internal Security has been officially confirmed as political partner for BMM by the Federal Government of Somalia. During a workshop with federal government stakeholders in March 2017, specific needs and areas of intervention were identified. For example, Somali officials identified policy support, inter-agency and inter-state coordination as well as reviews of laws and penal codes as priorities for support. BMM will be particularly engaged in future activities to strengthen Somalia's Counter Trafficking Committee and Committee on Return and Reintegration, which hold joint meetings as a National Coordination Mechanism.



The roll-out of the Somalia implementation package has been delayed by the ongoing political restructuring after the presidential elections. However, a visit to Hargeisa/Somaliland in May 2017 resulted in viable suggestions in the areas of policy harmonisation (support to an inter-ministerial committee, the Counter Human Trafficking Agency of Somaliland (COHATUS) which functions similarly as a local NCM) and protection (health services for migrants, internally displaced persons and drought-refugees). These suggestions will be taken up to the National Government for the formulation of activities for 2017 and 2018 that include also other regions in Somalia.

■ **South Sudan**

South Sudan's Cabinet recently decided to officially transform its National Aliens Committee (NAC) into an NCM and adapt its name to reflect that change, which is seen as a positive signal towards strengthening an NCM-like structure in the country. BMM is maintaining contact and exchange with South Sudanese government at the level of the Khartoum Process in order to discuss possible opportunities for engagement.

■ **Sudan**

The Ministry of Interior has been confirmed as political partner for BMM in Sudan. All Implementing Partners have established a strong collaboration with the main national and international actors active in the area of migration. This includes the National Committee on Counter Trafficking (NCCT), UNHCR, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA), IGAD and Save the Children. BMM plans to support the set-up of adapted referral mechanisms at state level, which should help to identify the gaps and challenges and therefore pave the way to the elaboration of an appropriate capacity building programme. Possible activities could be trainings about migrant related services and the prevention and repression of trafficking and smuggling.





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An assessment in El Gedaref state identified gaps and concrete needs of local authorities including Customs, Ministry of Justice, Commission of Refugees, Ministry of Social Welfare, Immigration, Law Enforcement and the Governor in dealing with migrants. It will be the basis for the design of capacity building measures to improve the situation of migrants and their protection, through adapted services to vulnerable migrants such as emergency health care, legal aid, and psycho social support. El Gedaref is located at the border with Ethiopia and faces multiple migration-related challenges.

- **Uganda**

So far, the planned mission to Uganda to discuss BMM activities officially will take place in the month of August. In the light of the current refugee crisis in the country, a wider scope of BMM can be envisaged in Uganda.



Commitment to open Communication and Transparency

The implementing partners and donors of BMM are committed to providing transparent and up to date information on the programme and progresses in implementation. A project description is currently available at the [GIZ website](#). Updated information such as a factsheet and programme news are released on regular basis.

For further questions, please contact the BMM Programme Manager

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