



IOM International Organization for Migration

## MIXED MIGRATION

## HORN OF AFRICA

“THIS PROGRAMME SEEKS TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION BY SUPPORTING BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WHILE PROVIDING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN AREAS THAT ARE STRUGGLING TO COPE WITH THE STRAIN OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION”

### The Overview

Every year, tens of thousands of migrants and refugees make the hazardous journey from their place of origin (primarily the Ogaden, Ethiopia and South Central Somalia), through the North East region of Somalia, Puntland, Djibouti and onwards across the Gulf of Aden - in makeshift boats, operated by unscrupulous smugglers.

### Why are they Moving?

The push factors include:

conflict, flight from persecution and human rights violations, food insecurity and desire for better economic opportunities. These are the features that gives these movements its “mixed” character. Many migrants die during the journey, while others are subjected to abuse at the hands of smugglers.

To address the protection problems faced by the Ethiopian and Somali migrants, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers, a Mixed Migration Task Force (MMTF) was established in April 2007, under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), co-chaired by IOM and UNHCR. Each member of the task force operates in view of its respective mandate while cooperating and coordinating with other

task force members and relevant stakeholders. The MMTF strategy recommends an expansion of coordinated humanitarian interventions in order to improve human rights protection for migrants and refugees.

### IOM response

IOM focuses its response both on the identification and combat of irregular and harmful forms of migration such as smuggling and human trafficking as well as on the opportunities of migration, such as labour migration, resettlement and diaspora engagement.

## IOM IN ACTION

- Over 100 coastguards from Djibouti, Somaliland and Puntland have received capacity building skills to enhance protection for and help save migrant lives.
- Over 50 immigration officials from Djibouti, Somaliland and Puntland were trained in the latest immigration procedures.
- IOM has provided Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVR) for migrants in Somaliland and Puntland especially the most vulnerable, including women, (unaccompanied) children and victims of trafficking.
- There is continuous operational and capacity building support of the Migration Response Centers in Somaliland, Puntland and Djibouti.

## Programme Components

### 1. Outreach and Advocacy

In Somaliland and Puntland, IOM works in partnership with different organizations (including the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission (SLNHRC) and local NGOs) to conduct outreach and advocacy campaigns. These partners carry out trainings on migrants' rights and protection for traditional leaders, migrants' host communities and community based organizations.

The Migration Response Centers (MRCs) are a significant component of the advocacy, outreach and service provision by IOM to reduce irregular migration through raising public awareness about the risks and consequences of irregular migration.

### 2. Capacity Building for Local Authorities and Local Partners

In Djibouti, some 80 authority representatives from various ministries including, Interior and Justice, as well as the National Police, Gendarmerie, Immigration and the Army have been trained in migration management issues including specifically tailored key mixed migration issues covering migrant rights, international law, migrant protection and counter human trafficking.

Over 100 coastguards from Djibouti, Somaliland and Puntland have received hands on training for rescue-at-sea operations as well as theoretical training on migrants rights to enhance their capacity to protect and save migrants lives in their respective regions.

Additionally, all staff operating the Migration Response Centers (MRC) in Hargeisa, Somaliland, Bossasso, Puntland and Obock, Djibouti undergo regular training on key mixed migration issues that they are faced with on a daily basis. In Somaliland and Puntland, some 100 community leaders have attended and were trained in two-day workshops covering mixed migration issues and ways in which they can assist to contribute and convey ways to assist and protect migrants.

### 3. Emergency Assistance including Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)

In Somalia and Djibouti, IOM provides emergency assistance in the framework of the MMTF actions and in coordination with MRC. The emergency assistance consists in Non Food Items (NFIs), medical assistance, referral and Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR). Since 2010 IOM has assisted a total of 1,194 vulnerable migrants to return voluntarily to Ethiopia from Somaliland and Puntland.

### 4. Support to Livelihood Projects for Host Communities

These projects aim at stabilizing communities, improve living conditions and reduce malnutrition caused by food insecurity. The livelihood and light infrastructure projects target essentially IDPs as they are generally identified as the most vulnerable; however host communities are also included in order to prevent resource based conflict.

The projects are entirely community driven and are designed based on beneficiary's needs and priorities. Assessments done by IOM among the beneficiaries has guided the focus on: (i) vocational training; conditional cash transfer and income generating activities in urban locations with a strong gender balance; (ii) restocking and livestock training in pastoral communities at risk of migration due to recurrent drought and on going desertification; (iii) fishery and light infrastructure projects in isolated coastal communities that receive little donor attention.

### 5. Counter-trafficking

In Somalia, awareness raising activities have been conducted; Counter Trafficking Task Forces within the regional authorities have been formed, as well as two Counter Trafficking centers in Somaliland, near the border with Ethiopia and Djibouti have been established. Moreover referral of potential trafficking cases and direct assistance to victims of trafficking has been provided.

In Yemen, trainings have been provided on "Trafficking in Human Beings- Identification of Victims of Trafficking" in a workshop attended by 90 government staff and officials. A more specialized training for Law Enforcement Agencies, Immigration Department Police and the Judiciary has also been provided.

### 6. Medium to long-term regional approaches

In Somalia and Yemen, IOM actively contributes to the MMTF through practical support (hosting secretariat in Yemen) as well as publication, data collection and researches (Regional Study on Mixed Migration through Somalia and across the Gulf of Aden, AUC, 2010).



## WE ASSIST:

- Irregular migrants
- Trafficked persons
- Refugees



## MANAGING MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

International Organization for Migration  
Coordinating Office for the Horn of Africa  
Church Road – off Rhapta Road, Westlands  
PO Box 55040 – 00200, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 444 4174  
Email: [piunairobi@iom.int](mailto:piunairobi@iom.int)

[www.nairobi.iom.int](http://www.nairobi.iom.int)

OCTOBER 2011