



**DEC 2018 - JAN 2019**

# **BULLETIN**

IOM REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

# Foreword from the Regional Director

## *Looking back at 2018 - the year that was*

The year 2018 was an eventful one, not least because it ended with the signing of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), an initiative championed by IOM. On 1 October, we welcomed our new Director General António Vitorino. Director General, Vitorino is an equally accomplished diplomat and public servant, having served as European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs and is formerly Portugal's Minister of the Presidency and National Defense. We look forward to working under his new leadership.

As the organization continued to highlight our activities in the region, below is a recap of some of the more significant stories we covered in 2018.

**Conflict still drives forced movements:** On 18 October, IOM published the second migration trends analysis for the East and Horn of Africa. According to the report, "A Region on the Move: Mid-year trends report - January to June 2018", the region witnessed significant internal and cross border displacements in the first half of 2018. Like in previous years, conflict and insecurity were key drivers of forced movements.

**Fighting Ebola:** As the Ebola outbreak rages in the DRC, IOM continued with a regional approach to prevention and containment efforts, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and governments.

**Peace at last:** In September, the region witnessed a landmark declaration of peace and friendship between Ethiopia and Eritrea, after decades of hostility.

**Assistance for returnees:** Within Ethiopia itself, IOM and partners provided assistance to the more than 960,000 people displaced due to conflict in Gedeo and West Guji regions. Estimate are that most of the displaced have since returned to their homes but are in need of immediate humanitarian support.

In 2019, we look forward to supporting member states to implement the GCM's 23 objectives and respective commitments in ensuring that cross border migration, in particular, is safe and orderly. The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, was an historic achievement by the international community. The Compact sets out a range of principles, commitments and understandings among Member States. These include considerations of human rights, humanitarian, economic, social, development, climate change, border management and security issues affecting migrants, their countries of origin and transit as well as the communities that host them.

We are ready and committed to welcoming and assisting returning migrants to reintegrate into their communities.



**Jeffrey Labovitz**

IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa

## Helping Street Children in Djibouti

The government of Djibouti, in partnership with IOM, recently commissioned a survey to help establish the living conditions of street children in the country. Djibouti is a significant transit location for migrants, including children, especially from Ethiopia. Some of these migrant children do not leave the country and end up living on the streets of Djibouti City, the capital. The survey aimed at counting and establishing the characteristics and needs of these children.

A total of 1,137 children aged up to 17 years, were surveyed. Funding for the study was provided by the European Union through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa

## Addressing the needs of internally displaced Somalis

In December 2018, tens of thousands of drought and conflict displaced Somalis received shelter materials and non-food item (NFI) kits from IOM. Among items provided were kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, plastic sheeting, wood and tools. Some 8,560 internally displaced families in 153 camps benefited.

An estimated 252,000 families are living in 371 camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Baidao, 250km northwest of the capital Mogadishu. Many have been displaced for years due to drought and conflict in the region.

IOM utilizes a network of community outreach teams to evaluate and communicate the urgent needs of camp residents.

The distribution was funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). It aims to reach an estimated 7,700 families living in IDP camps across Somalia.



## With IOM support, Kenya launches its first ever migration institute

On 18 December, the government of Kenya launched a migration studies institute with the support of IOM's Better Migration Management programme. The Kenya Institute of Migration Studies (KIMS), the first ever in the country, will be hosted at the University of Nairobi's Population Studies and Research Institute.

The aim of the institute is to provide courses to improve national and regional migration management to strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for migration and border management in Kenya, as well as in neighbouring states. The East African region remains a major source, transit and destination for migrants.

The post-graduate diploma will be open to mid-level managers from the Department of Immigration as well as other government officials from Kenya and other parts of Africa.

## IOM supports Burundi, DRC with border management

As part of efforts to improve public health preparedness and response at the borders of Burundi and DRC, IOM in November- December held a joint training for border officials from the two countries.

Participants included representatives drawn from various departments including health, immigration, border police, customs and quarantine services, working at the Gatumba/Kamvivira border. The training, supported by the IOM Development Fund, was part of an 18-month project that aims to address cross-border mobility and public health implications.

In the coming months, IOM will work with officials from both sides of the border to develop joint standard operating procedures and carry out a simulation exercise on public health emergency preparedness at the Gatumba/Kamvivira border.

IOM is hoping to scale up similar cross-border joint projects to other points of entry in Burundi.



## IOM and Partners Launch 'Mirage' TV Series in Ethiopia

Like in many other places, smugglers in Ethiopia often employ intricate techniques to deceive young vulnerable people into undertaking risky journeys in search of better opportunities. To address this, IOM, in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and the National Theatre, launched a TV drama series called Mirage in late November to tackle this and to raise awareness around people smuggling.

The 13-episode TV series, which debuted on Fana TV at 6:00 PM on 8 December, featured popular Ethiopian artistes who were also engaged in script development, acting and directing. The Ethiopian government has extended its support to the project, which is part of an effort to prevent irregular migration within the country.

Mirage aims to foster a better understanding of irregular migration by contributing to policy decisions and strengthening the response at various levels. The project is financed by the Agency for Italian Development Cooperation.

IOM is engaged in extensive awareness raising and behaviour change initiatives at grassroots level through community conversations, theatre performances and peer education, as well as community and school outreach. In addition to awareness raising efforts, IOM also provides reintegration assistance to vulnerable returnees through vocational skills training, education, psychosocial support and small business grants. Each month, Ethiopia registers a large number of returnees from the Middle East and elsewhere.

## Tanzania introduces residence permit and visa request services

The government of the United Republic of Tanzania has introduced electronic visa and residence permit services for foreign nationals wishing to visit or live in the country. The government says the new system will help enhance efficiency and boost security as well as revenue collection.

It is also part of efforts by the government to ease access of foreign nationals to the country, thereby promoting investment, especially in the manufacturing sector.

The e-immigration service allows foreigners wishing to visit or live in Tanzania to make such applications online from anywhere.

## IOM monitors dashboard on movements between Congo and Uganda

In December the UN migration agency IOM released its first dashboard report on human movement across the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

From Uganda, IOM monitors mixed migration flows along the border with the DRC through six strategically-located flow monitoring points (FMP).

Over the course of two weeks from 15 to 30 November, a total of 12,219 movements were observed, with 65% entering Uganda and 35% exiting. Seventy-two percent of those recorded declared themselves to be Congolese nationals. Over 60% of the total movements observed were of people intending to stay for less than one week. The main reasons reported for cross-border movements were to undertake economic activities and to visit families.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is supported by the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme through IOM.

BMM is a regional, multi-year, multi-partner project co-funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## The story of Rose Opani, IOM South Sudan driver

“When I first started driving water trucks around Juba, the communities would ask, “Why is this woman driving a truck?”

I was born in 1984 in village 30 miles from Yei town. When I was eight, my father took one of my sisters and me by bicycle to a school on the border with Uganda. We stayed there for a year before we had to move to a refugee camp in Uganda. We lived with our aunts, uncles and cousins in the camp, as our parents were still back in South Sudan. I spent three years in the camp, until my father died. His appendix burst and there were no doctors. So, I had to come back to the village to be with my mother, who was a midwife. A year later, we lost her too. So, I went back to the camp.

It took six days to walk there from Yei. When I got back to the camp, I stopped going to school – I was only in Primary 3 because there was not enough support. If we needed a little bit of money for something small like soap, then we would have to go collect firewood from the forest and make charcoal to sell. It could be dangerous.

Three years later, my uncle took me to Koboko but then he was in an accident. He died, and life became very difficult. I had to start looking for money to support my three sisters. I began making alcohol and tried to get other jobs like washing things and collecting water.

I was coming up on 18 years of age and knew that I couldn't finish school, so I left the camp.

I felt so bad. My father was dead. My mother was dead. My uncle had taken me and then he died.

I eventually got a job on a hospital compound and was making enough to help my sisters. I worked there until 2005. I then became a cook and would cook food for a children's feeding centre.

I checked my mind again and knew I wanted to go back to learning. I travelled to Kampala and enrolled in an English course and a driving school. I didn't have enough money, so I went to Juba and worked in a market before I could finish school.

My first driving job was delivering water in Juba. There had been many women in driving schools in Kampala but there were not many driving trucks in South Sudan. In 2012, after working for an international organization for a while in Juba, I joined IOM and now have been with them for six years.

Driving in Juba can be tough – the roads are dangerous, and motorcyclists can be careless. In the field, it can be a lot worse. The cars get stuck because of the conditions, especially in the rainy season, and we have to get them out without damaging them.

I am happy with the job I am doing as a driver, especially because it means that my daughters can go to school.”



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