

**73**

Staff working at IOM Djibouti

**2**

Offices in the country

**6.6**

Million USD budget

**20**

Ongoing projects

Sept. 2020



Ethiopian migrants crossing Djibouti, February 2020.

## MISSION OVERVIEW

The IOM office in Djibouti was established in 2009 with the objective of supporting the Government of Djibouti in providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and strengthening responses to the challenges posed by migration issues in the region. A cooperation agreement was signed between IOM and the Government of Djibouti to carry out programmes on migration in 2009.

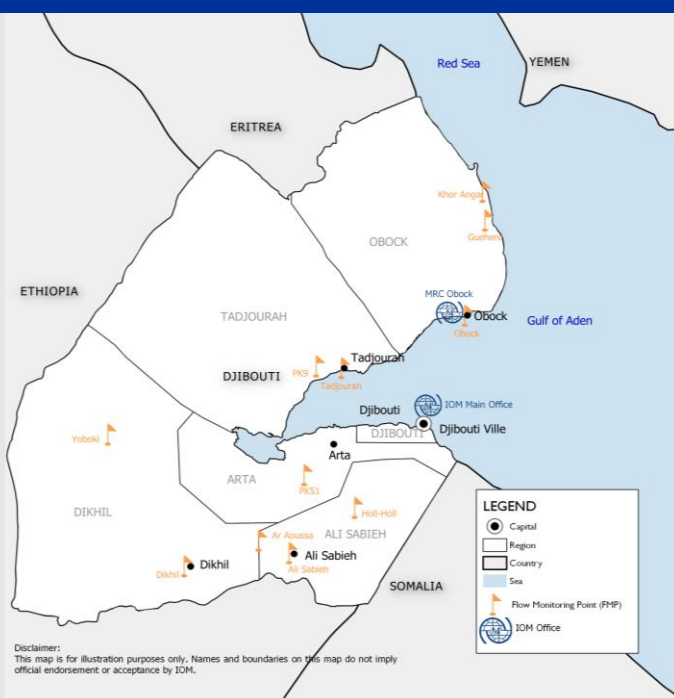
With a presence in the capital and in the Obock region and interventions in the other four regions of the country, IOM continuously contributes to reinforcing the capacities of public institutions and to provide direct assistance to vulnerable migrants.

IOM works in close collaboration with the various sectoral ministries, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as the United Nations Country Team and benefits from the support of various financial partners such as the European Union, the United States, DANIDA, CERF, Japan, Sweden, Germany, MIRAC and the IOM Development Fund.

## OPERATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Republic of Djibouti lies at a strategic crossroad between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Historically, Djibouti has been part of the migratory route linking Africa to Eurasia. However, the scale of such migration has increased markedly since 2009. Djibouti is a major transit country for thousands of irregular migrants, asylum-seekers and smuggled migrants attempting to make their way to the Arabian Peninsula. These migrants mostly come from Ethiopia and Somalia, fleeing political and social unrest as well as extreme climatic conditions such as drought and famine. Such conditions are both impacting on their health and well-being, coupled with unsafe transportation conditions.

The migratory routes used by Ethiopian migrants are a very arduous one. From different regions of Ethiopia, mainly Tigray and Oromia, migrants supported by smugglers make their way to Obock region after crossing the desert lands of the country. They gather in congregation points such as Fantahero on the outskirts of Obock City before heading to the coasts and crossing the Bal El Mandeb strait to Yemen. Migrants who have reached the Gulf countries but are unable to sustain a living (due to, among other reasons, border closures or the lack of economic opportunities) are also increasingly traveling back to Djibouti along the same migratory route.



## DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Through the Migration Response Centre (MRC) in Obock, IOM offers a range of services adapted to migrants such as the distribution of food, water and non-food items (NFI), medical and psychosocial assistance, temporary accommodation, and support for unaccompanied minors. Through its assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programme, IOM provides the possibility of an orderly return under conditions respectful of human dignity to migrants who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin in coordination with the relevant diplomatic representations and IOM's mission in the country of origin.

Along the country's major migratory corridors, IOM provides multisectoral and tailored assistance to vulnerable migrants in government-led sites which includes the organization of hygiene awareness raising sessions, the distribution of food, hygiene and Non-Food Items (NFI) kits, the provision of emergency shelter kits as well as the referral of medical cases to health facilities. The most vulnerable households from the host communities also benefit from these interventions.



*IOM mobile team in Djibouti, August 2020.*

## PROTECTION / MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Through its partnership agreement with the NGO Caritas and the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD), IOM provides protection and assistance to vulnerable migrant children in Djibouti City and contributes to the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). The local NGO UNFD offers counselling and orientation of survivors of GBV to relevant specialized institutions. Trainings on protection and assistance for vulnerable migrants have been jointly organized for relevant government institutions such as ONARS, the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities, National Police, Gendarmerie, etc.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services are provided in MRC Obock for vulnerable migrants who might show negative psychological reactions including disorientation, confusion, sense of instability and/or loss, lack of trust, feeling of inferiority, isolation, stress, anger, dissociation, guilt and lower self-esteem.

## BORDER MANAGEMENT

In collaboration with relevant border agencies, IOM works to strengthen their structures and procedures for border and immigration management. The activities implemented include the provision of trainings for border officials, promotion of the migrants' rights at borders, reinforcing the technical capacities of border posts through the donation of relevant equipment and materials, the installation and maintenance of the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at border posts, and the assessment of border management and migration. IOM also provides visa support services to immigration - the E-visa system has recently been developed and operationalized in collaboration with the Government of Djibouti. With regard to integrity and verification of documents, IOM Djibouti has worked on enhancing the interoperability of border management systems. Support is provided to border agencies in terms of cross border cooperation and promotion of interagency cooperation.

### DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) programme in Djibouti was activated in May 2017, in response to important migration movements mainly from Ethiopia heading to Yemen and Saudi Arabia through the Horn of Africa. DTM is operational in Djibouti to gather, analyze and disseminate critical, multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities and needs of migrants on the move that enables decision-makers and responding partners to provide targeted, context-specific assistance. The DTM team is composed of 25 enumerators based in all 5 regions. In Djibouti City, the DTM has a roster of 10 enumerators trained on data collection.



Focus group discussion with migrants in Obock, August 2020.

### MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Within the thematic areas of Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM works in collaboration with the Ministry for Urbanization, Environment and Tourism as well as with the Ministry of Interior and their regional representatives in order to support the government in strengthening its knowledge and management of climate change induced internal migration. Specific activities such as the conduct of a study to understand the impact of climate change and environmental changes on migration movements in the country will be prioritized, before developing and implementing adaptation solutions for at-risk communities through small-scale pilot projects in jointly-identified and prioritized regions. A gender sensitive approach is being used during the whole process in order to better understand and address the gendered impacts of climate change on migrants.

### DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

To foster the engagement of the Djiboutian diaspora to the national development, IOM, in coordination with the diaspora and the Djiboutian government (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) is conducting a diaspora mapping to understand the profile of the Djiboutians abroad. A strategy will be jointly developed with the objective of supporting the active engagement of the Djiboutian diaspora and their participation in the national development and provide capacity building to the national institutions in charge of the diaspora issues.

### RESETTLEMENT

In close coordination with UNHCR, IRCC, the Embassy of the United States, the Canadian High Commission and governmental agencies, IOM Djibouti has been resettling refugees living on Djiboutian territory since 2009, and organizes selection missions and medical assessments. Mostly Somali refugees followed by Ethiopians and Eritreans have been resettled in the following countries: USA, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, France, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Belgium.



Obock, February 2020.



Door to door sensitizations on COVID-19 prevention, Obock, April 2020.

## CONTACT

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