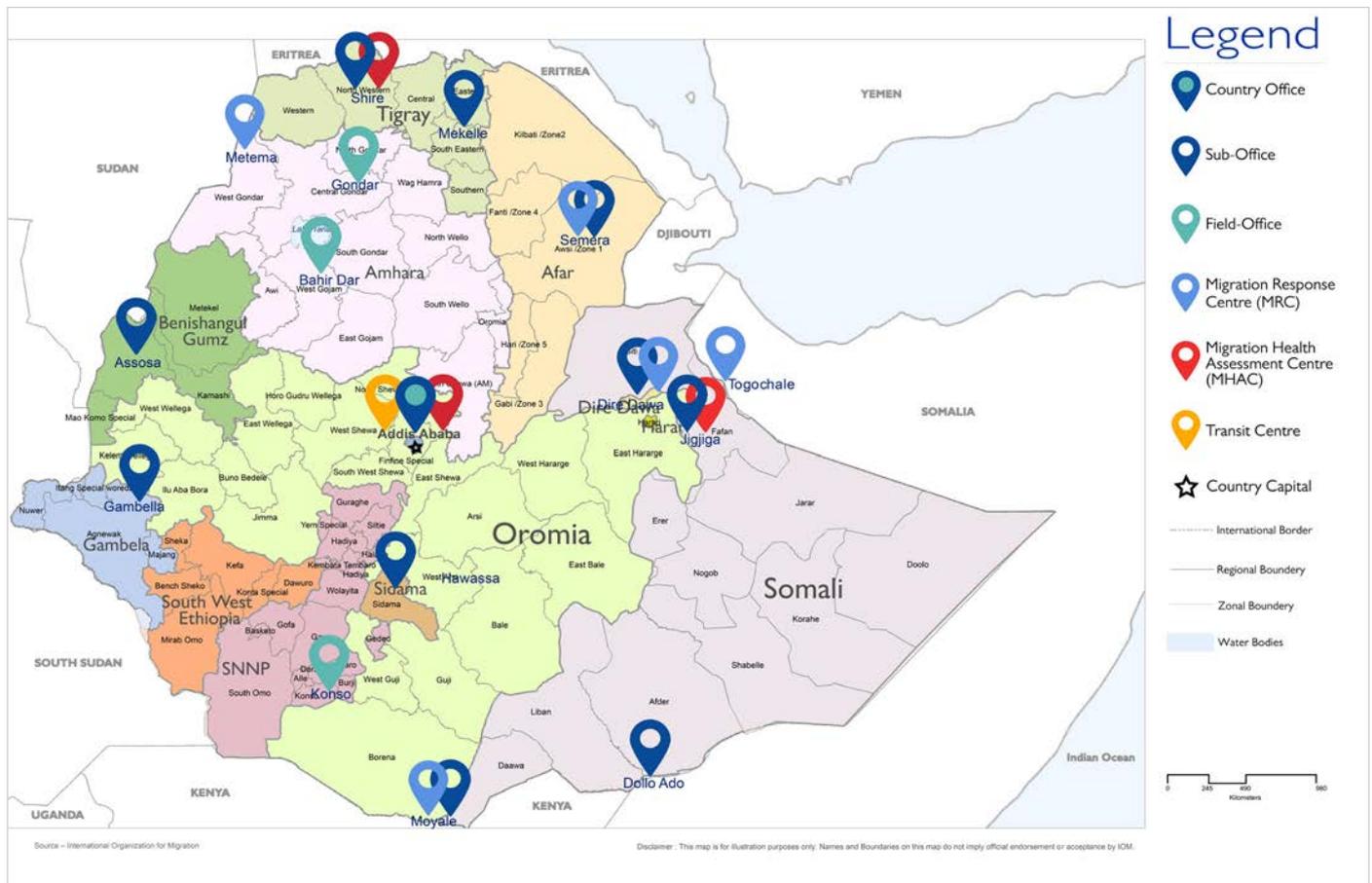


2021 ANNUAL REPORT



IOM PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA



MISSION STATEMENT

IOM Special Liaison Office (SLO) in Ethiopia works with the Government of Ethiopia, African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), migrants, and other stakeholders to uphold the rights and needs of migrants, promote the benefits, and address the challenges of migration and mitigate the related risks to the advantage of all.

Migration for the Benefit of All



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FOREWORD



The year 2021 witnessed daunting challenges and also remarkable achievements in the work of our mission in Ethiopia. While the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) doubled to 4.2 million in 2021 from 2.1 million in 2020, IOM worked with the Ethiopian Government authorities and other partners in providing a range of services to those in need and ensured efforts for IDP durable solutions. While mixed cross border migratory flows in and out of the country continued in multitude, IOM worked with the Government authorities and other partners in supporting enhanced border management and furthered the awareness of harnessing the benefit of migration for development. While COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented risks to movements including refugee resettlement movements, IOM worked to ensure those benefiting from its services were moved safely and in a humane and dignified manner and resettlement movements were in full compliance with the requirements of receiving countries concerned.

With the magnitude of the task at hand, we at IOM continued to deliver on our mandate in Ethiopia and commitment to its people in close collaboration with and support from the Government of Ethiopia, UN partners, humanitarian and development agencies, and the global IOM family.

IOM achieved some milestones in Ethiopia in 2021. To list a few: over 48,000 returning migrants were assisted; 1,200 returning migrants received tailor-made economic and social support packages; over 10 Border Control Posts were assessed for the installation of a Border Management Information System (MIDAS); 627,000 people were reached through public health emergency

risk communication; over 200,000 medical consultations and health assessments were conducted; 125,000 people were supported with mental health and psychosocial support services; 3,000 refugees departed from Ethiopia under IOM's resettlement programme; over 6,600 refugees were assisted with emergency transportation services; 16,000 individuals were assisted with their visa application to Canada and Germany; 943,000 individuals benefitted from the provision of shelter and non-food items; 939,000 people were supported with camp coordination and management services; and 1.8 million people benefitted from water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Our Special Liaison Office worked closely with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on migration governance and continued to support policy development, advocacy and political engagement, programme development, partnership building, and enhancement of the capacity of State and non-State actors on migration management and governance principles across various thematic areas, to foster a posture where migration is embedded in regional and continental development and integration policies and programming.

The year 2021 witnessed remarkable developments on the continent – with implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, the entry into force of the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency, the African Vaccines Agency, and the validation of continental policy documents for addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, among others. IOM worked to ensure migration issues were properly addressed with engagements and support from its HQ, Regional and Country Offices as well as the African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC).

The achievements would not have been possible without the selfless hard work of a qualified, brave, and dedicated IOM Ethiopia team, of whom I could not be prouder for their tireless support – to returning migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities – in their respective roles and capacities.

My colleagues and I sincerely thank our donors and partners for their generous support. We look forward to building on these achievements for more fruitful cooperation by recommitting to promoting safe, regular, and dignified migration for the benefit of all.

Jian Zhao
IOM Ethiopia Acting Chief of Mission and
Representative to the AU and UNECA

2021 IN NUMBERS

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

 **3,831**
people supported
with protection and
assistance services

 **48,472**
individuals supported
with return and
reintegration support

 **527** partners' staff trained on migration governance issues

MIGRATION HEALTH

 **1,425,455**
individuals reached
through direct health
support

MIGRATION MOVEMENTS

 **28,550**
individuals supported with
transportation, relocation
and visa services.

EMERGENCY & POST-CRISIS

ESNFI 943,598
individuals benefitted
from ESNFIs

 **1,028,073**
individuals supported through
water, sanitation, and hygiene
interventions.

 **939,237**
individuals supported
through CCCM services

 **4.17**
million IDPs identified
through DTM.

 **7,107** individuals benefitted from transition and recovery related activities

IOM PROGRAMMATIC AREAS IN ETHIOPIA

Since its first presence in Ethiopia in 1995, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been contributing to the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia (GOE) to effectively manage migration through a wide variety of projects and programmes. Today, IOM's presence in Ethiopia includes its Country Office in Addis Ababa, thirteen Field/Sub-Offices across the country covering all Regional States, five Migration Response Centres (MRCs) along key migratory routes, three migration health assessment centres (MHACs), and three transit centres for returning migrants and departing refugees. IOM's programmatic interventions in Ethiopia are divided in four broad areas:

- Migration Governance
- Migration Health
- Migration Movements
- Emergency and Post-Crisis

In 2005, IOM took a bold step to designate the mission in Ethiopia as a Special Liaison Mission (IOM/SLM) with liaison functions to the African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Today, IOM Ethiopia's liaison functions intersect with all other programme areas in the Mission and liaises with African and international bodies, including the AU and UNECA, to support continent-wide migration governance and policy initiatives.



MIGRATION GOVERNANCE



IOM works with the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), migrants, cooperating partners, and key stakeholders to uphold the rights and meet the needs of migrants and their communities and promote the benefits and address the challenges of migration. The scale and complexity of contemporary human mobility requires effective management of the social, economic, political, developmental, environmental and humanitarian factors underpinning migration. When well governed, migration can be a force for good – empowering individuals, families and nations attain their development aspirations.

Working at all stages of the migration process, in close collaboration with the GoE, and guided by the principle

of safe, orderly and humane migration, IOM's migration governance work and initiatives in Ethiopia focus on protecting and assisting migrants in vulnerable situations, optimizing the developmental potential of migration, and regulating migration for the benefit of all. Through our programming, IOM strives to create a conducive environment for effective migration governance through strengthening institutions and staff capacity, establishing multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, supporting legislative and regulatory reform, and mobilizing and analyzing statistics to facilitate evidence-based policymaking.

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

MIGRANT PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

IOM Ethiopia is committed to addressing the needs and promoting and upholding the rights of people on the move.

Migration Response Centres (MRCs) operate along key migration routes, providing direct assistance, including food and temporary shelter, information, and service referrals to people on the move. Working collaboratively, MRCs bring together key partners to facilitate the identification of migrants in vulnerable situations and ensure that they receive appropriate, immediate and longer-term support.



3,831

Persons received protection assistance



28,886

Staff and partners trained on GBV Risk Mitigation and Protection Mainstreaming



308

Persons reached by outreach activities on available protection services



146

Staff able to refer protection cases to appropriate care



158

Persons received livelihood support



158

Persons trained on income-generating business skills



102

Stakeholders trained on Case Management and Service Provision to Victims of Trafficking and Migrants in Vulnerable Situations



12

Staff trained on Essentials of Migration Management

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration are essential parts of a comprehensive approach to migration management.

Together with a vast network of partners comprising governmental authorities and non-governmental partners both in the region and in the countries of origin, IOM Ethiopia assists migrants in making informed decisions on their return and reintegration back into their communities.



1,354

Migrants supported through Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)



456

Migrants supported through Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR)



130,533

Returnee migrants registered, profiled and screened for vulnerabilities upon arrival (79,502 of whom were from KSA)



906

Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) received family tracing and reunification support



1,197

Vulnerable returnees received tailor-made economic and social support packages



809

Vulnerable returnees received technical and vocational training and in-kind business start-up packages



48,472

Returnee migrants assisted with Non-Food Items (NFIs)



1,344

Persons reached through cash-based support



2,068

Returnee migrants assisted with onward transportation allowance (OTA) and NFIs



1,544

Persons benefitted from return and reintegration capacity building activities

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

IOM supports the Government of Ethiopia in improving the policy, legislation, operational systems, human resources and administrative structures required to respond more effectively to diverse migration and border management challenges.



152

Immigration officers supported through inception trainings on migration and border management



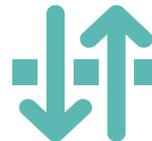
3

Forensic Document Examination Laboratories established (two at Bole International Airport and one at Ethiopia's Immigration Head Office)



106

Government officials trained on Humanitarian Border Management and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



17

Official Border Control Posts and unofficial border crossing areas were assessed for the installation of IOM's Border Management Information System (MIDAS)



51

Immigration officers supported with capacity building activities on Fraud Detection and Document Examination Techniques through theoretical and practical training sessions



274

Border community elders, religious leaders and persons from various border agencies supported through capacity building sessions on Integrated Border Management and Migrant Protection



24

Motorbikes donated to the Ethiopian Immigration Agency to facilitate the movement of border officials around border areas and improve migrant protection and crime detection capacity



2 million ETB

Worth of office furniture donated to the Ethiopian Immigration Agency to support existing Border Control Post offices fulfill their immigration control functions and upgrade office facilities



3

4X4 vehicles provided to the Ethiopian Immigration Agency to enhance its capacity to conduct mobile border patrols

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

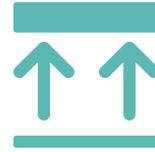
LABOUR MOBILITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

To maximize positive aspects of labour migration, including harnessing its potential for development, IOM Ethiopia conducts strategic initiatives, such as strengthening the capacity of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) facilities to provide quality training to prospective migrant workers.



31

TVET colleges supported with materials for provision of short-term skills training for migrants



50

Persons supported through capacity building activities



156

TVET instructors trained on the revised domestic and care giving training manual

MIGRATION POLICY

IOM Ethiopia leads strategic coordination mechanisms that aim to foster whole-of-society approaches by providing technical inputs into developing policies that govern most counter-trafficking initiatives in the country. IOM supports the GoE formed Inter-Ministerial Working Group to facilitate evidence-informed migration management through the generation, analysis and dissemination of migration data.



51

Government representatives and Stakeholders attended IOM migration and data workshops



MIGRATION HEALTH



IOM works to enable migrants and IDPs to benefit from an improved standard of physical, mental and social well-being, so they can substantially contribute to social and economic development. IOM's health programming includes health assessments, vaccination activities, Tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment under Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) and pre-departure medical services for resettlement purposes. IOM also provides a variety of health promotion/assistance services.

IOM deploys Mobile Health, and Nutrition Teams (MHNT) that include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

expertise and personnel, providing screening and referral management. IOM conducts cross-border communicable disease control capacity building in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. IOM continues to advocate for mainstreaming migrant health service delivery in local and national programmes, especially for vulnerable migrants.

IOM also provides humanitarian workers and their families with COVID-19 related services – including testing and remote monitoring – and COVID-19 vaccination to crisis-affected populations.

MIGRATION HEALTH

**11,722** 60% Immigrants

Health assessments conducted in Migration Health Assessment Centres (MHACs)

**2,272**

Pre-departure medical screenings (PDMS) for migrants

**785,897**

Persons vaccinated

**31,288**

Women of reproductive age received reproductive health services

**125,736**

Persons supported through Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services

**25,000**

Health supplies distributed to support COVID-19 response

**200,503**

Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities consultations

**627,836**

Persons reached through public health emergency risk communication

**27**

IOM health facilities providing Primary Health Care (PHC) services

**25**

Health facilities supported to provide essential health services in crisis-affected settings

MIGRATION MOVEMENTS



Migration Movements includes directing, overseeing and coordination of IOM's resettlement, family reunification, humanitarian, and other admission initiatives, by facilitating movement and logistical assistance. Movements are conducted across Ethiopia in close coordination with key partners such as Refugees and Returnees Services (RRS), UNHCR, Immigration department, and Ethiopian Airlines with which an agreement was made globally.

Refugee resettlement and family reunification programmes include the provision of logistical support to migrants and refugees including facilitation of interview, medical check-up, cultural orientation, transit centre assistance and departure. Document verification and airport assistance services are also provided. IOM is also providing emergency transportation assistance and protection to vulnerable refugees in a timely, safe, and dignified manner for those in need from Points of Entry to designated camps and

relocation between camps across Ethiopia per request of the host government authority.

IOM operates a Canada Visa Application Centre (CANVAC) in Addis Ababa to handle the visa application process to Canada, ensuring that only properly completed visa applications are submitted.

IOM began operating the Family Assistance Programme (FAP) centre in Ethiopia in December 2018, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). The FAP centre in Addis Ababa is part of a global network of nine centres which are facilitating the family reunification of vulnerable migrants with their family members in Germany since 2016. The programme offers a wide range of support to Eritrean and Somali families residing in Ethiopia and who have a family member in Germany with recognized refugee or subsidiary protection status.

MIGRATION MOVEMENTS

OPERATIONS



787

Refugees and migrants assisted under the IOM family reunification programme



2,928

Refugees accommodated at Transit Center



2,987

Refugees departed from Ethiopia under IOM's resettlement programme



1,822

People received arrival assistance at the Airport



6,606

Migrants/refugees assisted with emergency transport services



732

Documents verified



1,327

People interviewed for resettlement purposes

15,279



Visa applications processed by Canada Visa Application Center

1,069



Individuals Assisted by FAP and their applications collected and submitted to the German Visa Section

EMERGENCY AND POST CRISIS



IOM's Emergency and Post Crisis (EPC) programming in Ethiopia covers the spectrum of activities related to preparedness and response in humanitarian emergencies to recovery and transition towards durable solutions. Humanitarian response activities in Ethiopia include gender, inclusion, and protection-conscious interventions for displacement affected communities. IOM's interventions include: internal displacement information management through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), humanitarian coordination, and research and advocacy efforts on internal displacement; provision

of emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFIs); camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) for displaced communities; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services; and transition, recovery, and durable solutions support for disaster-affected communities. IOM also coordinates the emergency shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFIs) and CCCM Cluster at national and regional levels as part of its mandate as the cluster lead, and co-chairs the Cash and Accountability to Affected Populations Working Groups

EMERGENCY AND POST-CRISIS

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

IOM is providing direct lifesaving assistance based on the identified needs, including distribution of NFIs and emergency shelter kits, construction of communal shelters, and cash for rent assistance. All distributions are accounting for the local context, specific needs and vulnerabilities of beneficiaries, mainstreaming protection concerns and gender considerations, and have COVID-19 mitigation measures in place.

IOM has been co-leading the ESNFIs cluster in Ethiopia with the Government and has established sub-national ESNFIs clusters in Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Oromia, and Somali regions to facilitate appropriate, effective coordination and response.



55,132

People benefitted from Emergency Shelter assistance (Including in-kind/cash assistance for shelter)

NFI 256,615

People benefitted from NFIs assistance (Including in-kind/cash assistance for NFIs)



21,216

Individuals received Housing, Land and Property (HLP) support



1,944,851

Individuals assisted by SNFIs cluster partners



47

SNFIs cluster partners coordinated





CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM is carrying out site planning, development, maintenance, and upgrades, including partitioning of communal spaces, and constructing communal infrastructures such as kitchens and distribution points in displacement sites across Ethiopia. Other ongoing CCCM activities include coordination and information management, community participation and self-governance, and capacity building of CCCM stakeholders. IOM is co-leading the CCCM cluster in Ethiopia and has established coordination platforms at the national and sub-national levels in Tigray (Mekelle and Shire), Amhara, Afar, and Somali regions to facilitate appropriate and effective coordination and response to the needs and gaps of the displaced population living in camps and camp-like settings.



918,237

People supported through CCCM services



164

Internally displaced persons (IDP) sites supported through CCCM services



8

CCCM Cluster partners coordinated



1,929,441

Individuals assisted by CCCM cluster partners



465

People benefitted from CCCM related capacity building activities



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

IOM is leading WASH activities in many IDP sites and host communities across Ethiopia, including distribution of hygiene kits, water trucking, construction and rehabilitation of water points, emergency latrines, and handwashing stations, establishment of community-based water or sanitation management committees, and hygiene promotion activities through contextualized campaigns and mobilization of gender-balanced hygiene promoters.



1,028,073

People reached with hygiene promotion activities



453,118

People given access to safe drinking/clean water



138,778

People benefitted from sanitation facilities constructed/rehabilitated



17,065

People benefitted from distribution of menstrual hygiene management kits



3,684

People benefitted from WASH related capacity building activities



152,077

Individuals benefitted from water trucking/tankering

EMERGENCY AND POST-CRISIS

RAPID RESPONSE FUND

IOM’s grants-based programme, the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), supports local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through small grants to meet the urgent needs of displaced persons throughout Ethiopia through emergency response projects focused on shelter and settlements, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and education. Through RRF, IOM has established an SNFIs pipeline to support humanitarian partners in their delivery of humanitarian assistance in affected areas, also complementing partner responses through cash-for-NFIs support.

NFI 560,000
Individuals assisted through timely and quality provision of ES-NFI, CCCM services, WASH, and Education in Emergencies activities through IOM’s RRF and implementing partners

 **10,300**
Individual students reached with education in emergencies support

 **63,900**
Households reached with NFI kits (in kind or cash for NFI)

 **44,800**
Households reached with emergency shelter kits or cash for rent

 **21,000**
Households reached with CCCM / Settlement support

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) provides the Government of Ethiopia and the crisis response community with a reliable evidence base for planning, advocacy, and response. IOM applies a holistic view on the different trends and needs of mobile populations in Ethiopia through Household Level Surveys, Site Assessments, Village Assessments, Flow Monitoring, Thematic Analyses, and Mobility Data and Epidemiological Outbreak Reports Analysis.

 **4.24 million**
IDPs identified through DTM

 **41**
Displacement reports, assessments, and datasets published

 **90**
Organizations reached with DTM information

 **2,272**
IDP sites covered
+ 1,172
villages of return

EMERGENCY AND POST-CRISIS

TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

IOM supports climate- and conflict-affected communities across Ethiopia to progressively resolve displacement situations and promote voluntary and informed decision-making of IDPs, via improvement of policy and legislation, institutional capacity building, and community empowerment. Social and economic structures are rebuilt by working with community networks and local governments to support and strengthen local governance and policy structures, to build capacity among stakeholders to prevent and resolve conflict, and to improve community self-reliance.



596

Former Combatants benefitted from IOM's reintegration programme



7,107

People received livelihoods support



759

People benefitted from livelihoods related capacity building activities



1,724

People benefitted from cash reinsertion assistance to meet their basic and living costs



1,762

Former Combatants registered



93

Former Combatants received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services



26

People trained on peacebuilding



57

People participated in community dialogues



5

Schools constructed/rehabilitated



93

Teachers trained on school curriculum

SPECIAL LIAISON



The year 2021 witnessed remarkable developments on the continent - with the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, the entry into force of the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency, the African Vaccines Agency, the validation of continental policy documents for addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, among others. Notwithstanding these gains, the Continent, like most others, still grappled with the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Migrants were not left out of the consequences, given that their vulnerabilities were exacerbated by mobility restrictions, and limited access to vaccines and health care, among others.

SLO continued to support policy development, advocacy and political engagement, programme development, partnership building, and enhanced capacity of State and non-State actors on migration management and governance principles across various thematic areas, to foster a posture where migration is embedded in regional and continental development and integration policies and programming. Through joint effort, migration discourse

and relevant actions for the Continent were realized and sustained.

SLO worked closely with the AUC, RECs, Member States as well as AU organs, United Nations agencies, other non-State actors and relevant partners to ensure strategic engagement and streamlined coordination of migration issues were sufficiently addressed. To this end, SLO and the AUC initiated negotiation of a new partnership agreement succeeding the previous agreement signed between IOM and OAU in 1998. Further, SLO ensured coordination with its HQ, Regional and Country Offices, ACBC, GMDAC, CTDC and the sharing of up-to-date information on significant events on the Continent in a timely manner, including through its weekly newsletters.

Despite some challenges, SLO continued to deliver on its mandate unabated. Implementation of many activities were made possible through the benevolent support of donors including the European Union (EU), New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America (USA).

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

CONTRIBUTE TO AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION THROUGH THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS PROTOCOL

The 1st African Regional Review of the Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Preceding this Africa Regional Review meeting, eight interactive Side Events and a Multi-stakeholder consultation and four roundtables bringing together relevant stakeholders were held.

Some of the tangible actions in various African countries that are the direct result of the existence of a GCM include;

- Legislative and policy reforms and multi-stakeholder coordination
- Nine African countries are serving as GCM Champion Countries
- UN Networks on Migration have been established in 17 countries
- New migration governance platforms that are promoting multistakeholder consultations on migration, thereby enhancing whole of government and whole of society approaches to migration governance.

SLO organized the review conference together the UNECA, the AUC, and the UN Network on Migration. The conference was hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco. SLO will continue to work collaboratively with the African Union, its Member States, UNECA and all stakeholders to sustain joint reflections, and ultimately, cogent action from Africa ahead of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

UN Sustainable Development Agenda

Under the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), a policy multi-stakeholder platform for follow-up and review of progress and challenges in the implementation of the two SDGs and Agendas 2030 and 2063, SLO collaborated in the continental review of SDGs 10, 16 and 17. Furthermore, SLO co-organized policy discussions on the margins of the ARFSD and the fifty-third session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, on

migration-related solutions for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support the African Knowledge Management Hub

SLO, a member of the Knowledge Management Task team for Africa, coordinated by UNECA, whose broader mandate is to ensure collaboration with the Regional United Nations development system (UNDS) and O/IBCs in strengthening the knowledge management functions and building upon existing knowledge management services of UN entities, as well as their expertise in support of the implementation of Agendas 2030 and 2063, coordinated an IOM response to the Africa-wide survey-situational analysis of the current existing KM systems among UN agencies. Information gathered will be used to leverage strengths and successes and to identify gaps and needs in building an inter-UN regional KM hub.

Side event on the margins of the Fifty-Third Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

SLU in coordination with UNECA organized an event on Digitalizing Migration Responses to harness Africa's Economic Development and Demographic Dividend in the COVID-19 era. In line with the conference theme: Africa's Sustainable Industrialization and Diversification in the Digital Era in the Context of COVID-19, this event served as a platform for IOM to:

- Highlight key migration areas which will play a role in the continent's economic development, particularly for young people (including legal identity, border infrastructure and trade, labour migration (spotlight on skills development and recognition, and Skills Mobility Partnerships (SMPs)), remittances, environment and climate change (MECC), and migration data and statistics.
- Explore the increasing evolution of digitalized migration response initiatives to promote the changing dynamics, and the operationalization of events in a post COVID-19 era, paying note to the migration and development component, big data, integrated border management systems and existing applications which have facilitated migrant access and information to services which particularly relate to vulnerable migrants, migration health, financial transfers, et cetera.

- Explore the interplay between migration and the diversification of the digital economy in Africa. This event also fortified IOM's relationship with the Africa Trade Policy Centre, where it was highlighted that the nexus between trade and migration needs to be further fostered in order to boost development in Africa.

Africa Integration Agenda

SLO in collaboration with the AU's Department of Economic Development, Trade and Mining supported the development of the African Integration Report 2021. The report cast a spotlight on the continental free movement of persons as essential to continental integration. SLO coordinated the onboarding of a consultant to support the AUC, the review of the draft report as well as a communication strategy for the Africa Integration Forum. The Africa Integration Report includes a comprehensive assessment of the African integration process, highlighting the achievements, challenges and perspectives of the regional economic communities (RECs) on the basis of the Africa Multidimensional Regional Integration Index (AMRII), one of which is the free movement of persons.

On July 7, the AUC launched the first ever African Integration Forum (AIF) on the margins of the 2021 Africa Integration Day, under the theme, "The Role of Continental Integration in Accelerating African Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic." SLO supported the coordination of the AIF and the session on Free Movement of Persons, where partners and various stakeholders reflected on the state of free movement and migration in Africa and the importance of free movement as a component of economic development and continental integration.

As part of the week-long Africa Integration celebrations, SLO organized a side-event with UNDP and AFRO Champions to explore the interlinkages with migration, transfer of goods, services and talents, and socioeconomic development. IOM led discussions on skills, talent, and mobility as integration drivers, and participants were invited by AFRO Champions to present innovative projects, receiving feedback from professionals in the field on scaling up and portability of skills.

6th Pan African Forum on Migration

SLO co-coordinated the AU 6th Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM) which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 11 to 12 September 2021. The theme of the meeting was, "Strengthening Labour Migration Governance in Africa for Socioeconomic Development and Accelerated Continued Integration". The objective of the meeting was to provide

policy guidance and recommendations to Member States and other stakeholders on how to improve labor migration governance at national, regional and continental levels for socioeconomic development and integration of the continent as per the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063, the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA), the Global Compact on Migration, among others. The meeting brought together participants from thirty-four AU MS, five RECs, multilateral partners, social partners and academia.



Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) 2021: Strengthening Labour Migration Governance in Africa in the Context of a Pandemic for Accelerated Socioeconomic Development and Continental Integration

11-12 September 2021, Dakar, Senegal

Preparation for the 2nd Africa Migration Report (AMR) 2022

As part of the planning process for the second edition, and based on initial discussions between IOM, and the AUC, IOM held discussions with the donor, the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to secure financial commitment. A follow up discussion was held with the AUC colleagues to identify and propose focus areas for the second edition and an initial agreement has been reached to have an overarching focus around continental integration. The AUC's Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS) shared the draft outline with all other AUC Departments for vetting and cross referencing of the report's content, to ensure that it is aligned with continental views on migration. Accordingly, the relevant thematic areas identified include mobility and health, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the role of digitalization and data for continental integration, and the engagement of the African Diaspora in continental integration. SLO and AUC have identified the editorial team for the second edition and terms of reference and a contract have been shared.

INCREASE EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE GENDER- AND YOUTH-SENSITIVE

The AU-ILO-IOM-ECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance for Development and Regional

Integration in Africa (JLMP), in collaboration with UNECA, held a virtual side-event on the margins of the 7th Session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), under the theme “Unleashing the Transformative Potential of the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) for the Achievement of Agenda 2063 and 2030”. The virtual event that took place on 26 February 2021 highlighted labour migration management as envisioned in Agenda 2030 and 2063 and shared best practices. Brought together were senior and technical officials from governments, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, development partners, Diasporas, workers and employer organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations among others.

The JLMP on March 30 convened its fourth Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting that was hosted online by the African Union Commission’s Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS). The online meeting reviewed the status of ongoing projects. It was observed that despite COVID-19 causing restrictions on travel and the scaling down of activities, partners continued to work flat out to ensure projects remain on course. The workplan for 2021 was re-evaluated, with several delegates emphasizing the importance of building synergies in labour migration initiatives on the continent.

SLO finalized the report on model migrant welfare programmes for select African Union Member States and developed AU Guidelines for implementation of migrant welfare systems at national level as a means for countries of origin to extend social protection and security to their citizens abroad. The migrant welfare programme will enhance protection of the rights and interests of migrant workers abroad through specific interventions, including through unilateral arrangements, which can be achieved through constitutional guarantee and statutory frameworks, bilateral and multilateral arrangements, overseas workers welfare funds or programmes and voluntary affiliation in national social insurance schemes, among others.

Furthermore, in collaboration with JLMP partners, SLO supported the AUC to develop the African Union Guidelines on the development of Bilateral and Multilateral Labour Agreements to harmonise and promote the use of common tools. African Union migration policy frameworks, REC approaches to free movement and regional ministerial conferences have called for a united approach on migration and on negotiating and implementing BLAs in line with international legal frameworks on human and labour rights of migrant workers. Hence, the guidelines highlight the need for guidance to African Union member countries for

effective development, negotiation, implementation and evaluation of bilateral agreements for labour deployment consistent with full respect for and protection of migrant rights.

SLO collaborated with the Regional Office for West and Central Africa to finalize the research on "Assessing the intersection of food and agricultural supply chains, labour migration and ethical recruitment in West and Central Africa: A Preliminary Study". The objective of this research is to assist in highlighting the geographies in West Africa, export commodities and supply chains with the highest incidences of unethical recruitment and exploitation risk for migrant workers as well as serving to identify opportunities where IOM has the greatest leverage for change. It further looks to enhance knowledge and to identify priorities for multi-year interventions, including through the JLMP support to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) regions, to promote ethical recruitment and protection of migrant workers in West and Central Africa, supporting governments and relevant stakeholders to develop effective mechanisms to prevent and address the vulnerability of migrant workers in food and agriculture supply chains.

SLO finalized mapping reports on Pre-Departure and Post Arrival Orientation for migrant workers in the East and Horn of Africa region to provide a better understanding of the information needs of nationals leaving for foreign employment, assess institutional capacities to deliver and manage Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) as well as identify best practices and common challenges.

SLO supported the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in the development of the Regional Labour Migration Policy (RLMP). The RLMP is premised on the generally accepted view that migrant workers can best contribute to the economies of both destination and origin countries when they have decent working conditions, and their fundamental social, economic, labour and human rights are protected by the countries from which they come and those in which they work. The policy is aligned to international labour standards and international human rights principles as well as international, continental and regional frameworks on labour migration. It is guided by International Migration Law (IML), ILO Labour Conventions and Recommendations, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (particularly Goals 8 and 10), and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), particularly Objectives 5, 6 and 18. The policy was approved by labour migration experts in October and recommended to the EAC Ministerial Forum

of Labour for endorsement. A virtual meeting of senior officials to finalize the Policy for the next Sectoral Council to adopt is planned for the first quarter of 2022.

A baseline assessment report on needs and capacities of Regional Economic Communities (EAC, ECOWAS and SADC) and select Member States on labour migration management was launched. The assessment ascertains and analyses the status of labour migration management in the selected RECs and Member States, including on the state of social dialogue, understanding the capacity of labour market institutions to carry out work on labour migration governance as well as existing labour market information systems in place.

SLO launched the JLMP Strategic Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2020-2030) to guide the next decade of the implementation of the JLMP and a new 4-year project – JLMP Action (2021-2024) with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), targeting two new RECs, ECCAS and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and five member states - Ethiopia, Malawi, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Morocco.



Inter-REC Dialogue on Labour Migration: Experience Sharing and Capacity Building on Labour Migration Governance

November 8-11, 2021

Djibouti City, Djibouti

ADDRESS CHALLENGES RELATED TO IRREGULAR MIGRATION, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS, AND ENSURE PROTECTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

Finalization and validation of two draft continental policy documents for addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Africa

As a revision of the 2006 Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, two draft policy documents on addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling were finalized in 2021. In October, a Senior Officials validation workshop was organized to provide an opportunity for Member States, RECs, and selected experts to provide inputs and validate the draft policy documents. Based on inputs provided through the workshop, the draft policy documents were updated and shared with Member States. The draft policy documents are expected to be tabled at a meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons.

Drafting of the first statistical report on human trafficking and migrant smuggling for the Horn of Africa and surrounding region

SLO Addis, in collaboration with the AU's Pan-African Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), has been strengthening the capacities of national actors, including from national statistical institutes, police directorates, migration directorates, labour directorates and ministries of foreign affairs to help improve the collection and production of quality statistics on human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In a capacity building workshop held in 2019, a key recommendation from Member States was the production of the first statistics report on human trafficking and migrant smuggling in member countries of the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (AU-HoAI). Following through with this recommendation, in 2021, IOM and STATAFRIC concluded a Member State data review and validation exercise and finalized a draft report, which is expected to be presented to Senior Member State Officials before its launch.

Rollout of a foundational training on the guideline and use of an upcoming International Classification Standard on Human Trafficking Data (ICSHT)

SLO in coordination with IOM HQ, together with STATAFRIC and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organized a two-round virtual foundational training for government officials on the ICSHT. Held in June and October, representatives from over 30 African Union Member States participated in the

trainings. The first round of the training targeted Northern and Eastern regions of the continent while a second round covered Western, Central, and Southern regions. The two round trainings were delivered over six-day sessions. The training was designed to familiarize participants with the foundational concepts from the ICSHT and approaches for applying the standards in day-to-day work.

Fostering broad-based technical partnership towards strengthened institutional capacity for addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

IOM, operating within the ambit of the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative's Secretariat, developed a generic training manual on counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling approaches and techniques and, together with the African Union Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development (HHS), in 2019 launched an initiative to mainstream the manual as a module within national training institutes of Member States. In 2020, Ethiopia indicated interest in domesticating the manual and a national stakeholder workshop was subsequently organized where a road map for integrating the manual within law enforcement training institutes was agreed upon.

In 2021, it was discovered that there was a similar Better Migration Programme (BMM) initiative funded by GIZ/ CIVIPOL/UNODC for supporting the Government of Ethiopia. As a result, a stakeholder meeting was convened in June 2021 and attended by Ethiopian Attorney General's Office, Ethiopian Police University, AUC, CIVIPOL, IOM, UNHCR, and UNODC. The meeting reviewed the two capacity building initiatives (the AU-HoAI and BMM Initiatives) and decided that the training materials produced under the two initiatives are complimentary and can be merged to create an integrated training manual on addressing human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The Attorney General's Office and the Ethiopian Police University endorsed the proposal to produce and roll-out an integrated training manual on counter responses to human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

African Union Draft Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers

In 2021 the AUC, with support from JLMP implementing partners, developed an "AU Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers" in consideration of recent decisions of the AU Assembly

and in accordance with global and continental policy frameworks that protect the rights of migrant workers. The drafting of the AU Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers was undertaken by the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development (HHS) of the AUC, the ILO, and IOM, within the framework of the AU-ILO-IOM-ECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration Governance for Development and Regional Integration in Africa (JLMP). This declaration will be adopted by the Ministers of Labour of all AU Member States at the next Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment.

Apprising of AU affiliated interstate consultation mechanisms on irregular migration about modalities for contributing to the GCM review

SLO Addis facilitated the participation of AU affiliated interstate consultation mechanisms on irregular migration at the 9th consultation of the Global Regional Consultative Process (GRCP 9). At the GRCP 9, the AUC took part in discussions aimed at identifying modalities for contributing to the upcoming International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that will take stock of the GCM implementation. Through participation at the GRCP 9, AU affiliated interstate consultation mechanisms on irregular migration were apprised of different modalities for contributing to the GCM review including through written inputs as well as participation and hosting a side event at the IMRF conference.



Technical Workshop of Senior Officials of AU Member States to Validate Draft Polices on the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Prevention of smuggling of Migrants in Africa

October 6-8, 2021

Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania

STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTS' AND OTHER KEY ACTORS' EFFORTS AND CAPACITIES TO BETTER RESPOND TO THE DRIVERS OF CRISES AND DISPLACEMENT, AND TO ACHIEVE DURABLE SOLUTIONS

SLO supported six AU Member States - Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique- on two main pillars 1) Information Management and 2) Capacity building to strengthen regional COVID-19 Preparedness and Response in SADC and IGAD regions.

Through this project IOM expanded mobility tracking exercises, Event Tracking through several flow monitoring and congregation points; providing updated, reliable, and quality data (information products) on mobile population needs and vulnerabilities. The information products were widely disseminated and formed the evidence base for governments' COVID-19 prioritization decision making processes. For instance, a recent survey in Ethiopia indicated that 70 per cent of partners used DTM information products for decision making and 56 per cent of partners use DTM for operational planning. Furthermore, the DTM methodology demonstrated its flexible capabilities by integrating COVID-19 screening variables, highlighting its contribution as a bridging tool for inclusion of mobility perspectives in communicable disease control. Central to the project is building local capacity for effective data management and preparedness. Further, SLO developed and submitted to the AUC HHS a Migration Health strategy which is aligned to the AU MPFA. Following the launch of the migration health programme, the next step will be to establish the Migration Health Technical Working Group which will define the migration health priorities for the AU, based on a recent study and technical recommendations from the group.

Concurrently and following discussions with Africa CDC, SLO developed and shared a Concept Note on 'Enhancing Health Border Management Capacity for Safe Mobility' with the AUC. The strategy document defines collaborative approaches for IOM and HHS to realize the goals for health and development nexus. It will inform on IOM-AU collaboration in the areas of 1) policy development and advocacy, and 2) policy implementation and monitoring, in 2022.

This dual approach is an essential response to some of the recurrent technical and resource bottlenecks in migration health policy implementation and reviews.

CONTRIBUTE TO GOVERNMENTS' EFFORTS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

SLO implemented an IOM-AUC joint program on 'Human Mobility in the context of environment and climate change: capacity building for African Policy Makers and Practitioners'. The project is focused on producing a research report in the field of migration, environment, and climate change. Accordingly, the project covered research studies in the East/Horn of Africa (finalized) and Southern Africa region (partly covered by the project). The first series of the report covering the East/Horn of Africa was finalized and translated into French. The Southern Africa region has also been partly covered by the project and is being finalized based on feedback received from the AUC.

IOM country and regional offices played a critical role in facilitating the review of the studies and ensuring that the necessary technical inputs were included. The East and Horn of Africa study was also reviewed by AUC and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) who provided continental and regional expertise, respectively. Findings from the two studies are believed to equip policymakers with the knowledge on how best to strengthen the linkages with other relevant policy domains, especially disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development to reduce the vulnerability of populations in the long term. The findings of the studies will also complement the activities of the Africa Climate Initiative, which falls under AUC HHS.

As part of the 7th Session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, SLO organized a side event in collaboration with key continental stakeholders, to contribute to the discourse on green recovery in the context of COVID-19 and climate change.

SLU Support in the implementation of the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI)

SLO played a key role in co-leading the Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) Rural Areas Consultation Workshop series which had its first workshop in December

2021. The Rural Areas Consultations are focused on climate impacts and vulnerabilities affecting Africa's rural and farming communities.

The workshop is part of a series of workshops held in 2021 across five geographic areas including Rural, Urban, Coastal and Delta, Borderlands and Pastoral areas and hosted by ACMI to prepare its Comprehensive Report and an Agenda for Action entitled, "Shaping the Future of Mobility in Africa: Addressing Climate-Forced Displacement & Migration", which will be presented on the margins of COP 27 in Egypt in 2022. SLO played a role in coordinating IOM's participation in all the geographic areas in collaboration with Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Regional Thematic Specialists. The report is aimed at presenting evidence on climate-related migration in Africa and laying out recommendations and priorities for addressing challenges and opportunities.

The first Rural Areas Consultation Workshop brought together a group of experts and practitioners from a broad range of sectors to generate a shared interpretation of the findings from the field research undertaken by the Mixed Migration Center. The research was aimed at capturing the circumstances of affected populations in a sample of hotspots across the continent affected by climate-forced mobility.

The consultation workshop inspired by the field research provided policy and research recommendations in the interactions between climate change and other migration drivers, the role and potential of migration as an adaptive strategy, addressing adverse drivers of migration, facilitating safe, regular and orderly migration and, supporting vulnerable groups, among others. The outcomes of the workshop would contribute to the development of the Comprehensive report and Agenda for Action.

The ACMI is an initiative that was officially launched in September 2021 and steered by the AUC, the World Bank, UNDP, UNFCCC and IOM. It aims to generate political momentum, a common policy agenda, and resources for action on climate mobility in the continent.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Whereas the above activities are intertwined with cross-cutting issues, certain activities were undertaken within the reporting year that were specific to these issues :

DATA AND RESEARCH

Labour migration data and statistics

SLO in collaboration with JIMP Implementing Partners in December 2021 launched the 3rd edition of the Report on Labour Migration Statistics in Africa. The report contains detailed information on labour migration statistics in the continent that is enhanced and enriched from the previous editions. Some of the data gaps in the previous editions were filled on some of the indicators where data was missing in some of the years by sourcing for more data from additional sources and making some adjustment on inconsistencies noted during data collection. Furthermore, IOM collaborated with the governments of Cameroon and South Africa to pilot the collection of new types of data, including administrative data, for labour migration statistics.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, UNLIA

Through its engagement with the ECA – African Centre for Statistics (ACS), SLO coordinated the establishment of a technical working group on migration with multitude partners in strengthening national and regional capacities for collection, analysis and dissemination of migration data. SLO continues to drive the migration and mobility agenda within evidence-based policymaking and planning as well as the use of disaggregated data and statistics with a migration dimension at national, regional and continental levels. SLO's engagement on migration data further complements IOM's contribution to the UN Legal Identity Agenda 2020-2030 targeting sustainable civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

SLO participated in the review process of a rapid gender responsive capacity assessment for the UNLT, which was coordinated by UN Women. This assessment will establish a baseline on the extent to which the agencies currently mainstream gender in their support to the AU and Member States as well as the existing capacities to implement this key mandate. The assessment will inform a gender action plan which will provide practical and actionable recommendations to address the gaps, strengthen good practices, and promote collaboration among UNLT members for gender responsive support to the AU.

YOUTH

Support to Model African Union on International Youth Day

The Model African Union (MAU) is an organization which provides educative opportunities for students and young people to gain first-hand knowledge about African and global issues while assuming the role of delegates responsible for debating and resolving issues of regional and global significance. In 2021, on the margins of International Youth Day, IOM was a lead supporter of the event, as young people engaged on the theme, Transforming Africa: Young People's Innovation for African Integration. Participating university and high school students had the opportunity to simulate an AU Summit, with the key discussion on Free Movement of Persons as well as other development benefits of migration in Africa.

PARTNERSHIPS

IOM -AU Cooperation Agreement

SLO has been collaborating with the AUC on policies, programmes and activities related to migration governance, labour migration, and migration and trade through various departments and organs. IOM- AU partnership activities have been taking place under the auspices of the partnership agreement signed between IOM and the OAU in 1998. Our recent work with the AUC (actual and anticipated) – brought on by the significant developments in the migration policy landscape both globally as well as on the continent, has called for the need to amend the previous OAU-IOM Cooperation Agreement. The SLO initiated the negotiation of a new partnership agreement with the AU and following an extensive internal input and revision by concerned colleagues at the IOM Headquarters and Regional Offices in Africa, the updated draft cooperation agreement has been submitted to the AUC for a review and acceptance. The cooperation agreement is hoped to be signed by a senior representative of the AUC and the IOM DG in early 2022.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH AFRICAN UNION YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS (AUYVC)

SLO established a youth portfolio in 2020 which sought to feed into the continental agenda on youth, particularly the AUC's '1 million by 2021' initiative through education, entrepreneurship and engagement and build on the outcomes of the 2019 International Migration Dialogue (IMD), which committed to having youths as key actors in migration decision making.

IOM engaged in discussions with the African Union Youth Directorate towards exploring a youth volunteer program whereby talented African youth from across the region will be deployed to IOM country offices to gain knowledge and experiences on migration issues, share their expertise and promote national and gender diversity in IOM's workforce. To this end, a MoU was drafted and has undergone internal review processes. The draft will be shared with the AUC for their review before signature by both organizations' s principals.

COLLABORATION WITH AU CENTERS ON MIGRATION DATA (MALI, RABAT & KHARTOUM)

The AU Migration Policy Framework indicates that lack of reliable and up-to-date data on migration in Africa is a big gap hindering the process of informed policymaking on migration at national, regional, and continental levels.

Following a request for support made to the IOM DG from the AUC Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social development (HHS) in operationalizing the three AU centers, IOM SLO and GMDAC responded to a call from the AUC to support capacity through secondment of experts. Consequently, SLO Addis has been coordinating with all RPLOs on the continent, the ACBC, and GMDAC on how best to support the three plus one AU Centers, in Bamako, Khartoum, Rabat and STATAFRIC in Tunis, particularly given the overlapping functions of the centers' functions and IOM's regional strategies. SLO will coordinate a mapping exercise of existing initiatives and activities, which will determine how best to align the support to these centers.

PARTNERSHIP WITH UNECA AFRICA TRADE POLICY CENTER (ATPC)

SLO-Addis engaged in discussions with the ATPC as part of a broader agenda to foster a single-pronged approach to the issues of trade and mobility, particularly with the implementation of the AfCFTA and the need for the free movement of persons to move in tandem. Discussions have focused on identifying areas of collaboration in the rollout of the AfCFTA national implementation strategies, with IOM bringing its comparative advantage on migration. The development of national strategies on the AfCFTA is anchored on national development priorities, aligned with the bilateral, regional and continental commitments assumed by member states.

Through this process, SLO is co-coordinating an IOM internal task force on migration and trade, following the endorsement and appointment of focal points

by IOM Regional Directors and in collaboration with Thematic Heads at HQ, notably Labour Mobility and Human Development (LHD), Immigration and Border Management (IBM) and Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA). The first technical meeting of the IOM Internal Taskforce (TF) on Migration and Trade was held to kickstart an institutional discussion on how IOM can be an active partner within the technical cooperation mechanisms being established on the African Continent to support Member States in the design and implementation of national strategies under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA). The Taskforce is a working group of IOM focal points from a range of Offices (IOM HQ, RO and SLO Addis, along with interested COs) working on advancing initiatives linking migration to trade and development, and vice-versa. The Taskforce will serve as a platform for regular interactions to further elaborate IOM's mandate, commitment and comparative advantage on migration and trade in Africa and within other trade related regimes globally. Initial support from Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MIRAC) to RO Pretoria and RO Dakar has been sourced.

EU-IOM Joint Initiative seconded three experts - a Senior Migrant Protection and Assistance Advisor, a Senior Labour Mobility and Human Development Policy Advisor, and a Communications Officer - who commenced their duties in September 2020.

In 2021, the Senior Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA) Advisor and, the Senior Labour Mobility and Human Development Policy Advisor contributed to the development of various policy documents, strategies, communiques, working papers, and participated in multiple high-level discussions and working groups, thus supporting the AUC, particularly the Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS) with the required capacity.

Furthermore, as part of SLO's support to the AU on its continental free movement of persons (FMP) agenda, two staff were seconded to the AU Commission HHS to fasttrack ratification of the FMP protocol, including through various member state consultations as well as with the technical support required to institute a Champion and special envoy for the protocol.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE AUC

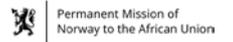
As part of a policy and capacity support to the African Union Commission on reintegration and migration, the





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IOM THANKS ITS PARTNERS AND DONORS





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