Welcome to the May edition of the UN Migration Agency Bulletin for the East and Horn of Africa.

In this edition, we highlight some of the various activities we have carried out in the region, including the launch of the Reintegration Facility in Somaliland to assist migrants stranded in other countries, livelihood support to internally displaced people, refugees and host communities in Burundi as well as provision of health assistance to 48,000 Somalis.

This edition also talks about the provision of reintegration assistance to returnees in Ethiopia under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the East and Horn of Africa, while in Uganda, Marine Police Unit received training on how to assist Congolese asylum seekers - many of whom use dangerous means of transport through Lake Albert to cross into Uganda.

However, even as aid agencies continue to provide development and humanitarian assistance, it is worth noting that countries in the region continue to grapple with flood-related displacement since March 2018. Heavy rainfall has persisted across the region, causing widespread flooding, which has led to the deaths of many, displacement of tens of thousands, damage to crops and infrastructure, and loss of livestock.

Jeffrey Labovitz
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Reintegration Facility project kick-off in Somaliland

The European Union (EU)-funded "Reintegration Facility" project kicked-off on 24 April in Somaliland. The event was hosted by the Somaliland Government, EU and IOM. The project will help migrants from Somaliland who have become stranded in African countries to return home voluntarily and reintege into their communities. It will also assist Ethiopians in Somaliland to return home and provide them with reintegration support.

Representatives from the Government, civil society and the United Nations attended the event, coordinated with the National Displacement and Refugee Agency.

The project will increase the capacities of partner countries and relevant stakeholders to develop and strengthen return and reintegration policies and processes, facilitate safe, humane and dignified assisted voluntary return processes among partner countries, and facilitate sustainable reintegration across three dimensions: successful economic reintegration and strengthened livelihoods, social reintegration and psychosocial reintegration.

The project is part of the larger EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, which facilitates orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration management through the development of rights-based and development-focused policies and processes on protection and sustainable reintegration. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative, backed by the EU Trust Fund, includes close collaboration with 26 African countries.

In Burundi, IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities Benefit from Livelihood Support

In April, 120 internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and host community representatives undertook entrepreneurship training and were provided with mentorship opportunities in agriculture. The training was funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation.

The trainees, drawn from 24 community-based associations, will in turn train others. Some 600 people are expected to benefit from the training. To date, participants have received training on business development, value chain management and agricultural processing.

As part of the training, participants visited different private sector groups focused on improving agricultural production, including Solidarity for Sustainable Development and Economic Growth (Solidarité pour le développement durable et le relèvement de l'économie). The organization works towards finding agricultural and husbandry methods that are resistant to climate change.

The visits helped trainees witness first-hand innovative agricultural techniques and trends. They also received one-on-one mentoring on ways to enhance their own businesses.

IOM supported the trainees to start small income-generating activities (IGA) and provided start-up kits for small, quick impact projects to support the livelihoods of IDPs, returnees and host communities. As a result, the 24 associations were able to launch 32 successful agricultural and forestry businesses in Rutana province.

The province, where the four-month project was implemented from January to April 2018, hosts a large number of IDPs and returnees.
48,000 Somalis to benefit from health services

With financial support from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, IOM and the Ministries of Health in Somaliland and Puntland have launched an initiative which will see an estimated 48,000 people benefit from emergency life-saving health services over the next five months. Most of those targeted are in Sool, Sanaag and Mudug - all of which have been gripped by severe drought conditions. This builds on the 22 static clinics and 33 Integrated Emergency Rapid Response Teams (IERTs) set up by IOM in 2017.

In response to the effects of the drought and current flooding, the project will provide access to emergency primary health care to IDPs and host populations in the targeted regions. IOM has deployed four IERTs in each of the targeted regions.

IERTs provide life-saving primary health services including consultations, nutrition screenings, referral services and health education. They are deployed to underserved areas in close collaboration with regional and federal health authorities in order to prevent deterioration of the health status of vulnerable communities, especially women and children.

Drought conditions in Somalia have led to massive migration from rural to urban and peri-urban centres in Somalia. This has in turn strained the capacity of municipal authorities to provide basic services including health, further exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Some of the worst affected areas continue to grapple with limited access to life-saving assistance. Crisis-affected communities in these areas are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks.

Youth centres in Ethiopia receive entertainment equipment

In order to facilitate engagement with the youth in Ethiopia, IOM provided entertainment equipment and material to 12 youth centres and 40 schools in Amhara, Tigray, Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations and Nationalities People’s Regional States in March and April 2018.

With the aim of creating awareness on irregular migration among the youth, IOM conducted a needs assessment that highlighted the role of youth centres and schools in reaching in and out of school youth. Based on the needs assessment findings, IOM provided computers, televisions, mini media audio video equipment, chairs, tables and other entertainment materials to the centres and schools.

The provision of the entertainment equipment was made possible through two projects - the Return and Reintegration of Ethiopians, which is funded by the Kingdom of Denmark; and the Government of Japan-funded Reducing Vulnerability to Trafficking in Persons Exploitation and Abuse. Both projects are co-implemented by IOM and the Government of Ethiopia.
29 Ethiopian returnees benefit from economic reintegration

Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the East and Horn of Africa, IOM provided the first economic reintegration assistance to 29 irregular Ethiopian migrant returnees. The migrants returned to their communities of origin in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ (SNNP) Region of Ethiopia, which is among the regions prone to irregular migration.

IOM provided business and project management training and conducted one-on-one consultations with the returnees to develop their business plans. Some of the group spent months or years outside of Ethiopia and have minimal knowledge of the current context in the country. The personalized consultations and the training has helped them identify and map business opportunities in their respective communities, as well as be up-to-date with current Government business requirements.

The group was trained in technical agricultural skills such as cattle and goat fattening, grain trade and dairy production, as well as business development and management.

Cattle fodder was provided to the returnees to kickstart their cattle fattening businesses. By the end of May, a total of 91 returnees will have been supported under the Joint Initiative. IOM’s team in the SNNP Region is providing similar reintegration assistance to the remaining 62 returnees.

The programme is part of the larger EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, which facilitates orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration management through the development of rights-based and development-focused policies and processes on protection and sustainable reintegration. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative, backed by the EU Trust Fund, covers and has been set up in close cooperation with a total of 26 African countries. It employs an innovative approach towards sustainable reintegration, supporting solutions for migrants and their communities. It aims at enabling returnees to restart their lives in their countries of origin through an integrated reintegration approach that supports both migrants and their communities. It also has the potential to complement local development and mitigates some of the drivers of irregular migration.
Uganda Marine Police, Immigration Trained on Handling Asylum Seekers

Through funding from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, IOM Uganda trained the Marine Unit of the Ugandan Police to improve their capacity and skills to assist Congolese asylum seekers.

The April training involved the Marine Unit at Sebagoro landing site on Lake Albert, in Hoima district, through which thousands of Congolese refugees enter Uganda each month.

This comes after IOM donated 400 life jackets and radio communication equipment to the Marine Police at Sebagoro. The officers received training on medical care and search-and-rescue.

Many Congolese refugees cross into Uganda using wooden fishing boats and canoes and there have been reports of drowning.

The police received skills on basic maritime search-and-rescue operations, handling emergencies like boat collisions, and life-saving maneuvers such as making improvised pressure dressings and administering airway management to unconscious victims.

Programme for Human Security and Stabilization Launched in Lamu County in Kenya

On 10 May 2018, IOM in partnership with the Government of Kenya, and with funding from the Government of Japan, launched Phase III of the Programme for Human Security and Stabilization in Lamu County (PHSS).

PHSS, which is already implemented in Kenya’s coastal regions of Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa, will continue to focus on empowering the youth and creating community revitalization projects that will support vulnerable members of society and communities in the County.

IOM will continue to cooperate with all the key stakeholders including the Government of Kenya and Japan, Lamu County Government and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). PHSS III will address key issues in Lamu County and provide alternatives in building capacities for parents and communities, who are key in turning the tide of crime and any illegal acts among the youth.

The programme involves counselling, exploring and advising on available opportunities and business training. The programme will be targeted based on the recommendations of the County Security Committee.
IOM releases report on migration trends in the East and Horn of Africa


The report outlines key trends that were observed in 2017, with a focus on forced displacement, mixed migration, and resettlement movements in the region. Also highlighted in this report are notable developments on the policy front, including the adoption of instruments to promote the free movement of Africans on the continent as well as consultations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

In 2017, migration in the East and Horn of Africa continued to be driven by a range of factors including conflict, insecurity, extreme weather conditions, political unrest, the youth bulge and uneven economic growth.

Capacity building for frontline officers to prevent gender-based violence in Tanzania

In April, IOM facilitated a capacity building workshop for frontline workers to prevent gender-based violence. The workshop, which brought together 33 participants drawn from the police, judiciary, immigration as well as civil society, was conducted in Kanoko district in Kigoma region.

In addition, the workshop created awareness and promoted protection related guidelines among the participants. IOM continues to support community dialogues on protection of women and children against trafficking and other forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. The dialogues target community leaders, local government authorities, religious leaders and the community.

In Kasulu district, Kigoma region, IOM is supporting a safe home for women and children at risk of violence. In April, 26 women and children were hosted at the shelter.

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FACTS & FIGURES
2017 IOM Crisis Response

6,557,083
out of 12,295,146 persons in need in the humanitarian sectors IOM contributes to were reached with interventions from cluster partners including IOM.

624,615
individuals comprising 92,417 households in seven countries were reached with IOM’s S-NFI interventions, including S-NFI kits (78,617 households), shelter repair and upgrade (8,390 households) and shelter construction (9,809 households).

531,500
individuals comprising 91,109 households in three countries benefited from IOM’s CCCM operations.

1,880,619
individuals in four countries benefited from IOM’s WASH interventions, including provision of safe water (882,512), access to latrines (168,081), sanitation activities (713,591) and hygiene promotion (920,998).

136,151
individuals comprising 23,634 households in two countries were reached with IOM cash transfers.

4,454,161
individuals – including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and other migrants – were tracked with IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in five countries.