

Capacity Building on Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration

Introduction and Background

Launched in December 2016 with funding from the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (JI) for Migrant Protection and Reintegration was the first comprehensive programme to save, protect and assist migrants along key migration routes in Africa.

In the Horn of Africa (JI HoA), the programme was launched in March 2017, targeting primarily Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. Migrants are supported to return to and reintegrate into their countries of origin in line with IOM's Integrated Approach to Reintegration.¹ This approach is multidimensional, as it seeks to address returnees' economic, social and psychosocial needs, and it also prescribes a coordinated intervention at three different levels: **individual, community and structural**.

Reintegration assistance at the structural level works towards creating the overall political, institutional, economic and social conditions for sustainable reintegration programming.² This involves strategically engaging reintegration stakeholders, building and strengthening their capacities and establishing strong coordination mechanisms. The JI HoA programme has implemented initiatives to strengthen the capacity of the relevant government authorities in various aspects of migration governance, with a focus on migrant protection, return and reintegration assistance provision, and the establishment of referral mechanisms.

Key areas of capacity-building activities in the JI HoA programme include:

	<h4>Policy Support</h4>		<h4>Process Strengthening</h4>
<p>Strengthening national policy frameworks to ensure that migrant protection and reintegration is embedded in national migration and development strategies and relevant sectoral policies in the country of origin. This includes support in the development and review of policies.</p>		<p>Supporting the nationalization of AVRR standard operating procedures, providing a robust framework for the delivery of return and reintegration assistance and enhancing referral mechanisms.</p>	
	<h4>Support to Coordination Structures</h4>		<h4>Digitalization and Migration Data</h4>
<p>Establishing and strengthening coordination structures to facilitate migrant protection and sustainable reintegration — at the regional, national and local levels.</p>		<p>Strengthening the skills, structures, processes or resources of key stakeholders to collect, manage and analyse return and reintegration data, to identify and articulate priorities to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returnees.</p>	

¹ International Organization for Migration. Gravano, N., Götzelmann, A., Nozarian, N. & Jawadurovna Wadud, A. *Towards an integrated approach to reintegration in the context of return* (Geneva, 2017).

² See IOM's Reintegration Handbook. Geneva, 2019. Available from https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_reintegration_handbook.pdf.

SOMALIA

Key Results in Somalia

89%

Stakeholders declaring that they **are more engaged** in the field of voluntary return and reintegration assistance

17%

Strategies, policies and plans developed and/or directly supported

65%

Partners reporting that data produced has **supported evidence-based policies, procedures & programme design**

2

Field studies conducted along with surveys and other research

94

Stakeholders **strengthened through capacity building** or operational support on reintegration

98%

Stakeholders declaring **increased knowledge** on return and reintegration issues

9

National/regional/local networks and dialogues on migration related issues newly established or functionally enhanced



Children and women assisted with voluntary return and reintegration depart from Bossaso, Somalia to Ethiopia. © IOM



Returns and Community Dialogue Celebration organized under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. © IOM



Somali Migrants arriving from Libya assisted by the EU IOM Joint Initiative. © IOM

Country Profile

Somalia has a population of over 17 million people and a land area of around 637,340 km², making it the forty-second largest country in the world. Somalia is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of 447 United States dollars in 2021.

Somalia has one of the most complex migration landscapes in the world. Recurrent climatic shocks have been devastating for Somali communities and continue to drive displacement, while ongoing conflict affects protection and human rights, reduces resilience and hinders access to basic services, especially for mobile populations.³

Somalia is a country of transit, destination, origin and return for immense flows of internal and external outward migration across the Horn of Africa and beyond. The civil war, which took place in 1987–1991, resulted in mass internal and external displacement and a fractured governance structure.

According to IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix Flow Monitoring Updates, as of December 2022, more than 30,000 movements were observed across the country with 71 per cent departing outside of Somalia along the Eastern Corridor, which encompasses movements of people travelling from the Horn of Africa, largely Ethiopian, across the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States via Yemen.⁴ Both outward and internal migration have been fuelled by a mix of protracted conflict, recurring climate disasters, lack of food and water security, widespread poverty and lack of economic opportunities. Somalis have been displaced worldwide, with the majority living in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Irregular migration routes lead respectively towards South Africa, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, and the Mediterranean.

The EU-IOM JI programme in Somalia collaborated with a number of governmental institutions, among which:

ENTITY	MAIN AREAS OF COLLABORATION
Office of Special Envoy for Migrants and Children's Rights (OSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSE works under the Office of the Prime Minister and deals with assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) of Somali nationals returning to Somalia. OSE is the programme's main government partner at the Federal Level and is IOM's main counterpart for interaction with other Ministries on migration-related issues including protection of migrants and return, and reintegration of Somali nationals. A Memorandum of Understanding between IOM and OSE was signed in August 2020 to formalize the collaboration.
National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDRA is the programme's key partner in Somaliland. After years of cooperation, the formal framework for partnership in the form of MoU was signed with NDRA in June 2021. NDRA is IOM's main government partner in Somaliland and provides active support to the programme, managing managing a Migrant Response Centre (MRC) in Hargeisa and playing oversight role in the implementation of community-based projects.
Governor of the Department of Regional Administration of the Bari region in Puntland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the operationalization of the MRC in Bossaso. Under the overall oversight of the Office of the Governor, the MRC offers immediate services and referral assistance to vulnerable migrants stranded in Bossaso and hotspot areas en route to the city and the Port of Exit. Additionally, the Office of the Governor is the highest government representative in the Mixed Migration Task Force discussions in this region.

3 IOM. IOM Somalia programmatic overview. 2021. Available from <https://somalia.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1041/files/documents/iom-somalia-programmatic-overview-2021-copy.pdf>.

4 ReliefWeb. December 2022. DTM Somalia: Cross Border Movements.

Key Achievements

Under the EU-IOM JI programme in Somalia, IOM conducted a number of structural level interventions, as follows:



Policy Support

- Contributed to drafting the process of National Migration Policy (NMP) through the engagement of a GCM (Global Compact for Migration) Advisor at the Office of the Special Envoy for Migrants' and Children's Rights (OSE). The secondment of the GCM Advisor supported the OSE to receive technical inputs to consultative workshops on drafting the NMP in close collaboration with government and non-government stakeholders at federal level.
- In Somaliland, supported lead government agencies in the Mixed Migration Task Force, particularly the Ministry of Justice to draft Human Trafficking Act to prevent trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and prosecute crimes associated with human trafficking across the country.



Process Strengthening

- Supported the nationalization of the AVR standard operating procedures, validated and approved in November 2021⁵ in Hargeisa (Somaliland) and Mogadishu (Banadir) respectively.
- Collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund on capacity-building activities, such as conducting joint training to government and implementing partners on child protection issues of children on the move.



Support to Coordination Structures

- Participated in and supported several meetings organized through different coordination platforms relevant to the

programme, such as a High-Level Task Force, a Mixed Migration Task Force, a Human Trafficking Task Force and a Return and Readmission Task Force.

- Strengthened capacities of frontline government institutions through the engagement of diaspora advisors to support coordination and strategic policy frameworks supporting protection, return and reintegration of migrants and returnees. As a result of supporting technical advisors on GCM, legal and strategic communications, both OSE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received technical inputs for the drafting of the NMP and mainstreaming of migrant protection into strategic communications interventions respectively.
- Coordinated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the development of the IOM-UNHCR Hybrid Approach Framework for the assistance of Somali nationals returning from Libya. This partnership framework is relevant for the provision of post-arrival and reintegration support to returnees from Libya (which represents around 70 per cent of the total number of returnees to Somalia). The framework outlines the roles and responsibilities of IOM and UNHCR for the post-arrival and reintegration assistance.
- Collaborated with and provided technical support to three MRCs in the country, mainly on providing direct assistance and protection services to Ethiopian migrants in Somalia wishing but unable to return to their country of origin.



Digitalization and Migration Data

- The IOM Regional Data Hub for the East and Horn of Africa region supported the National Displacement and Refugee Agency with the creation of a software application to issue registration certificates to returning migrants. These can be used by returnees to obtain a new national identification document free of charge. The Agency is also using the returnee database to refer vulnerable returning migrants to service providers and is planning to expand the range of services accessible registered individuals.

5 The SOP Nationalization in Somalia considered entailing a separate process with Somaliland authorities based on their status of autonomy within the country.