

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:



Policy Support

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.



Process Strengthening

Supporting the nationalization of AVRR standard operating procedures, providing a robust framework for the delivery of return and reintegration assistance and enhancing referral mechanisms.



Support to Coordination Structures

Establishing and strengthening coordination structures to facilitate migrant protection and sustainable reintegration — at the regional, national and local levels.



Digitalization and Migration Data

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.

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.

Key Results in Sudan

78%

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

2

Strategies, policies and plans developed and/or directly supported

85%

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

2

Field studies conducted along with surveys and other research

32

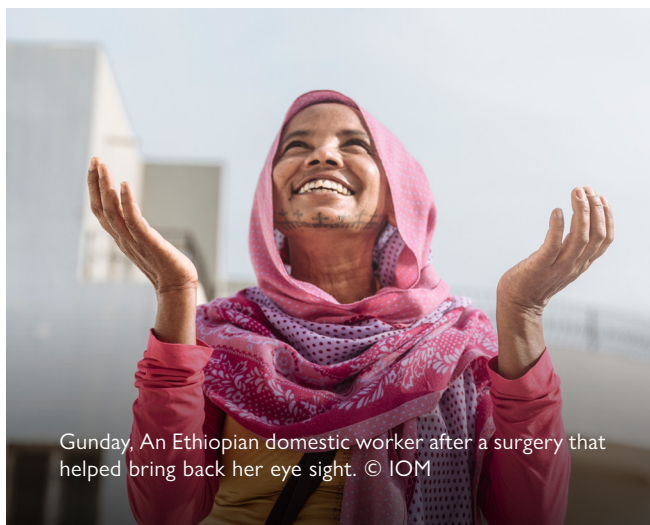
Stakeholders **strengthened through capacity building** or operational support on reintegration

97%

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

6

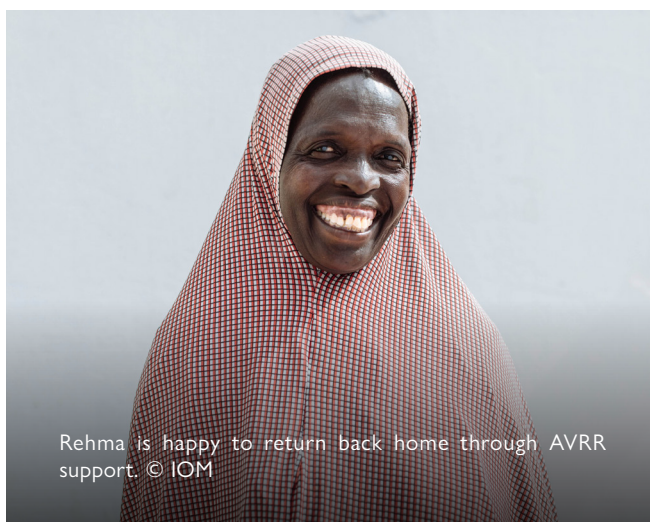
National/regional/local networks and dialogues on migration related issues newly established or functionally enhanced



Gunday, An Ethiopian domestic worker after a surgery that helped bring back her eye sight. © IOM



Launch of the Vocational Training in Nyala, Sudan. © IOM



Rehema is happy to return back home through AVRR support. © IOM

Country Profile

Sudan has a population of over 45 million people and a land area of around 1.86 million km², making it the third largest country in Africa. Economically, Sudan remains one of the poorest countries with a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of 751 United States dollars in 2021.

Sudan is located at the crossroads of sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. The country shares borders with seven countries in Central, North and the Horn of Africa (HoA) and is one of the most active crossings for mixed migration flows in Africa. Due to regional instability and its geographic location, Sudan has been a major transit and destination country for people on the move along the Northern Route towards North Africa and Europe. While many Sudanese migrate abroad, Sudan is also a country of transit and destination for mixed migration flows from West, Central, East and HoA, which include

a significant number of refugees, smuggled migrants, unaccompanied or separated migrant children and victims of trafficking. Increasing economic hardship, insecurity and recent political instability within the country may further intensify and accelerate movements out of the country.

As of September 2021, Sudan hosts 1.1 million refugees, many from South Sudan, and more than 3 million internally displaced persons. In addition to the effects of economic crisis such as increased unemployment, high inflation and prices for basic goods, shortages of essential commodities, long-term internal conflict, and limited investment in infrastructure, recent political changes following a military coup staged in October 2021 make it difficult to operate and provide basic services in Sudan. These conditions are the main drivers of migration in Sudan.

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

ENTITY	MAIN AREAS OF COLLABORATION
Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSWA created a national fund to support repatriation and reintegration services for returnees and their families. Under the validated nationalized framework standard operating procedures (SOPs) for assisted return and reintegration (AVRR) in Sudan, SSWA provides support to returning migrants. SSWA also conducts vulnerability assessments for returnees upon their return and makes further referrals to the relevant stakeholder institutions for additional reintegration support.
National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHIF and IOM signed a service agreement in July 2018 to provide EU-IOM JI programme beneficiaries and their household members with health insurance cover for one year.
Ministry of Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Interior is a key counterpart of IOM in supporting vulnerable and stranded migrants through the provision of protection and assistance services such as humanitarian assistance (foods, medical assistance, psychosocial support, food and non-food items support), and pre-departure return support. The ministry also closely engaged with IOM in the development of outbound AVRR SOPs and is part of IOM's capacity building and training programme in the migration management, countering trafficking and smuggling.

ENTITY	MAIN AREAS OF COLLABORATION
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry initiates repatriation of returnees, sensitization and registration for voluntary humanitarian returns from Libya and AVRR in other countries via Sudanese embassies. • The ministry also coordinates with IOM on training and reintegration programmes for returnees. Moreover, it informs Sudanese nationals about the types of assistance IOM provides.³
Ministry of Social Welfare and State Population Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry helps with protection services and job opportunities to returnees.
Sudanese Affairs Regulatory Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sudanese Affairs Regulatory Authority registers Sudanese nationals returning from abroad and raises awareness on available services. • The ministry also collaborates with IOM on case management, supporting returnees with documents and letters to support with education, health insurance and other aspects of reintegration.⁴
Ministry of Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry is responsible for nationwide coordination of policy and programming related to job creation, labour laws in Sudan and works in coordination with ILO on Start & Improve Your Business training for returnees.
Central Bureau of Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central Bureau of Statistics, a government institution, collects data on the Sudan's population to plan policy-level decision-making. The Bureau aims to develop a comprehensive statistical information system to collect unified data in a variety of fields such as migration profiling and population census of both Sudanese and foreign migrants as this data will feed into the establishment of a single information management database in the country. Sudan is in the process of identifying one overarching entity responsible for migration data and information management; all data protection principles will be observed.

3 Mapping of stakeholders, services for sustainable returnee reintegration in Sudan, APEX report (2021).

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Key Achievements

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



Policy Support

- Supported the preparatory work of drafting the national migration strategy and providing technical support to the National Population Council. The strategy development was initially supported through phases I and II of Better Migration Management regional programme with a mapping study.



Process Strengthening

- Supported the development of the National Framework SOPs for AVRR, which were completed in 2020. Under this framework, the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA) serves as the main government body mandated to coordinate the reintegration efforts of returnees in the country. The programme provided several capacity-building trainings and actively collaborated with SSWA.
- Supported a joint fact-finding and monitoring visits to detention facilities and Sudanese communities in Libya to assess whether detainees were aware of the JI programme and to inform them on what support to expect after their return to Sudan. The visit raised awareness among Sudanese migrants in Libya about the assisted voluntary return and reintegration programme. Thanks to the visit, several migrants registered for voluntary return in coordination with the Sudanese embassy and IOM.
- Held regular programme participatory monitoring meetings a national and state level; participants included Government, civil society, host communities, returnees and the private sector.

- Provided trainings on mainstreaming mental health psychosocial support (MHPSS) to local partners and government organizations and mapping of MHPSS pathways.
- Provided training on the Reintegration Handbook to key reintegration stakeholders.
- Supported the establishment of the United Nations Migration Network in Sudan (2021) to ensure coordinated United Nations Country Team-wide support to the Government of Sudan in implementing the Global Compact on Migration and other migration-related policies. IOM will serve as the Coordinator and Secretariat of the network and all its constituent parts.



Support to Coordination Structures

- Established a functional regular technical working group meeting as a coordination platform to enhance the implementation of return and reintegration programmes.
- Laid the foundation for the establishment of a cash-based interventions working group in Sudan, which was officially formed as a coordination platform to standardize key elements of these interventions, such as the intermediary financial institutions' commissions.



Digitalization and Migration Data

- Supported the digitalization of reintegration support and developed a dynamic dashboard that provides comprehensive and user-friendly information on various types of support provided by the programme.
- Initiated a collaboration with the government on developing the return and reintegration database to enhance the government's ability to have accurate migration data and register returning migrants.
- Secretariat for Sudanese Working Abroad Trainings on Kobo 2019–2022.