



Raising Awareness in Sudan of Irregular Migration, Smuggling and Trafficking

IOM and UNHCR conduct training for government counterparts, civil society organizations and UN agencies in Khartoum

On **November 5th and 6th 2012**, IOM Sudan held a training workshop on irregular migration for representatives of different ministries, civil society organizations and UN agencies in Khartoum.

The workshop focused on trafficking definitions and people smuggling definitions according to international law, assistance and identifications of victims of trafficking, and mixed migration flows. It included presentations from IOM colleagues in Cairo, UNHCR Sudan, as well as guest speaker Judge Adel Maged, an expert adviser on human trafficking to the League of Arab States, who presented on regional and international efforts to combat people smuggling and human trafficking.

Sudan is both a destination and transit country for East Africans who enter the country through the Eastern border. UNHCR estimates that 2,000 persons enter Sudan illegally every month. Of those, between 1,000 and 1,500 persons seek asylum in Sudan and are subsequently hosted in Shagarab camp in the East. The limitation of refugees' prospects in the camp leads the vast majority of the new arrivals to remain in Shagarab for only a matter of weeks. Many then decide to move on to



Khartoum or other urban centers within Sudan, or on to Egypt, Israel, Europe or the Middle East. In particular, unaccompanied minors, women and the disabled are considered to be at considerable risk during these journeys.

Trafficking, smuggling and kidnapping of refugees and asylum seekers has been on the rise in the past years. The main concern is still the number of incidents of new arrivals reported to have been kidnapped and held for ransom by criminal groups believed to belong to tribes living on the border. They are either kidnapped as they enter the country, or taken by force from the refugee camp where the new arrivals are hosted. Others fall victim while

traveling from the East to Khartoum, or when trying to leave the country (having been misled by smugglers). In most cases, victims are detained against their will in inconspicuous sites within newly established villages along the Eritrean border.

This workshop was an activity within the joint IOM and UNHCR project "Addressing Human Trafficking, People Smuggling and Kidnapping in Eastern Sudan and Khartoum". The primary goal of the project is to increase understanding and awareness of the scope and realities of the current problem. This knowledge will then be used to inform those most at risk, to raise 11 both IOM and UNHCR efforts in the nationally and regionally.

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