

Migration Initiatives Appeal 2009

YEMEN

Migration issues

Every year, tens of thousands of Somali and Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers make the hazardous journey from their respective countries of origin toward Puntland and Djibouti, before traveling onward across the Gulf of Aden. It is estimated that from 800 to 1,400 people drowned in 2007. In addition, a great number are subjected to abuse and injury at the hands of unscrupulous smugglers and traffickers. Despite these difficult conditions, the number of attempted crossings and arrivals increases each year.

Recognizing that a long-term and coordinated strategy is needed to address the problems of mixed migration, a Mixed Migration Taskforce, co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM, was formed in June 2008 to develop a rights-based strategy to contribute to the efforts by the government and the international community to protect all migrants and asylum seekers travelling the Gulf of Aden route.

Yemen also faces the problem of child trafficking and smuggling across its borders. Yemen is a country of origin for the internal and cross-border trafficking of children, mostly boys, for forced begging, forced unskilled labour, or forced street vending.

Total Funding Requirements for Yemen

- USD 6, 157, 000

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Yemen

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The government has been extremely proactive in tackling the problem and, in cooperation with IOM and UNICEF, has played an important role in the implementation of comprehensive capacity-building interventions and preventative measures.

Historically, Yemen has also been characterized by a large outflow of labour migrants. Approximately 1.7 million Yemenis live abroad; 800,000 in the Kingdom of Saudi

PROGRAMME AREAS

Migration and Development

Migration and Economic/Community Development

IOM plans to build the capacity of the government to manage migration through the

establishment of an Integrated Migration Information System (IMIS). This intervention will assist the Ministry of Immigrant Affairs to strengthen ties with the Yemeni diaspora, channel remittances into investments for the country, and strengthen links between the

Yemen workforce and selected labour destination countries. It is expected that IOM's planned activities will contribute to enhancing labour migration management capacity in Yemen.

- **Integration management system in Yemen – USD 2,000,000 (New)**

Regulating Migration

Return Assistance to Migrants and Governments

In order to improve the capacity and mechanisms required to support irregular and vulnerable migrants moving into and through Yemen, IOM will carry out a general profiling exercise of mixed migration flows and, with consideration for those not following official asylum processes, will pilot an AVR component for stranded migrants and rejected asylum seekers who wish to return home.

IOM will also seek to prevent particularly vulnerable migrants, including women and unaccompanied minors, embarking on irregular onward migration from Yemen through the provision of individual information, counselling and referral services, and direct assistance. IOM will work with UNHCR and existing NGOs that currently offer assistance, including shelter, education, and livelihood support to refugees and vulnerable migrants.

- **Pilot project for the assisted voluntary return and reintegration of rejected asylum seekers and stranded migrants in Yemen – USD 1,500,000 (New)**
- **Pilot project for the provision of information, counselling, and referral services to women and unaccompanied minor migrants in Yemen – USD 1,000,000 (New)**

Counter-trafficking

Yemen is an origin, transit, and destination country for smuggling and human trafficking. Irregular migrants come from several countries, mainly in the Horn of Africa, in search of work opportunities.

The geographical location of Yemen, its permeable borders and relatively generous immigration policy contribute to the country's vulnerability to transit migration toward the wealthier countries in the region. Parallel to IOM-UNICEF efforts to combat and prevent child trafficking, IOM is focusing on reinforcing the capacity of the government and civil society to mitigate human trafficking and provide assistance to victims of this form of exploitation.

- **Capacity-building and awareness-raising on countertrafficking (Phase III) – USD 257,000**
- **Empowering Yemen to address mixed migration and protect victims of trafficking travelling the Gulf of Aden route – USD 900,000 (New)**

Technical Cooperation on Migration Management and Capacity Building

The geographic location of Yemen and its permeable borders contribute to its vulnerability to transit migration toward Oman and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the ever-increasing mixed flow of migrants coming from the Horn of Africa represents a major challenge to Yemeni border authorities. IOM will work to empower the government to improve border management and safeguard the human rights of all migrants and asylum seekers travelling the Gulf of Aden route.

- **Capacity-building of Yemeni institutions on migration management – USD 500,000 (New)**