

January 2016



The Sagne border between Mauritania and Senegal

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IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT IN MAURITANIA

With a territory of 1,030,700 km² and only 3.5 million inhabitants, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania is a vast, largely uninhabited country. With only 47 land border posts to cover more than 5,000 km of land border and 800 km of coastline, border control and security management is a significant task.

Because of its geographic location, its environment, the porosity of its borders and the economic opportunities available in the country, Mauritania is subject to increasing migration inflows, transit flows and trans-border threats such as cattle thefts, irregular migration, terrorism and trafficking of arms, people and drugs.

The International Organisation for Migrations, in direct coordination with the Mauritanian government through the Ministry of Interior and Decentralisation and the Mauritanian Gendarmerie, and thanks to the funding of the European Union as well as other donors, implements various projects that contribute to reinforce national and regional migration and border management capacity. These projects are focused on three main objectives: reinforcing institutional capacities, enhancing border officers' capacity through trainings and developing operational capacities by providing necessary and qualitative equipment for border management.



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As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to uphold the human dignity and well being of migrants, to encourage social and economic development through migration and to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management. Areas of work include border management, conflict prevention, community stabilisation, migration and development and counter trafficking. These activities take the form of direct assistance, capacity building and information sharing as well as awareness-raising. IOM's central objective is to improve and develop global, regional and country level responses to protect and assist migrants in need and to support governments to reinforce their migration management capacities.



Strengthening migration management in Mauritania through a better border management strategy and assistance to irregular migrants.

This project which is funded is based on the need for a country to be able to manage migration flows in its territory in order to ensure the safety of both its population and migrants residing in its territory, by providing assistance to those who find themselves in an irregular situation and wish to return to their country of origin. This project is part of the technical assistance of the European Union for the implementation of a national strategy for migration in Mauritania.

Implementation period: 31 months
January 2014 – July 2016

Budget: 2.350.000 Euros

4 MAIN AREAS OF INTERVENTION

1. **GOVERNANCE** - The development of procedure and passport examination manuals for the police and gendarmerie; an analysis of legal texts and reports on border management and strengthening collaboration between the various State departments;
2. **INFRASTRUCTURES and EQUIPMENT** - The construction, renovation and furnishing of 5 border posts and testing of a system to manage the movements and travels of local residents in pilot border post;
3. **TRAINING** - The training and monitoring of over 200 staff of the Gendarmerie and police working at border posts on border management and migration, the use of computers, the rights of refugees, first aid skills; the training of journalists migration issues;
4. **AVRR** - Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of 60 irregular migrants and support for reintegration.

This project is funded by the European Union:



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