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The UN Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, which took place on 19 September in New York, created a singular opportunity for the global community to forge a greater consensus on managing the world’s movements of migrants and refugees. This mega-trend of the 21st Century now represents unprecedented human mobility, with one of every seven people worldwide living or working somewhere other than their place of birth.

With representatives of nearly two hundred nation states looking on, Director General Swing and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon signed a document formally linking IOM to the UN. It established IOM as a “related organization” of the UN, giving the UN for the first time, an explicit migration mandate.

The signing signalled the culmination of a process that began in June 2016 when IOM Member States unanimously endorsed the process to join the UN. Then, in July 2016, the UN General Assembly also gave its consent unanimously. DG Swing noted that the decision reflected a growing recognition of the importance of migration and the need to better link human mobility with related policy agendas, including in the humanitarian, development, human rights, climate change and peace and security domains.

“A record number of people are uprooted and forced to move – refugees, internally displaced persons, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors. Climate change threatens yet a further 75 million living just one meter above sea level,” said Swing.

IOM’s collaboration with the UN is already close and will be ever closer with the organization as part of the UN system. This will help ensure that the challenges associated with the world’s 244 million international migrants are fully addressed by the international community. Most importantly, the Summit’s decision to formulate a Global Compact on Migration by 2018 is a defining moment for human mobility.
Launch of a computer training for 25 young vulnerable migrants

“Learning IT will help us to have a good future!” said Simone (Guinea Conakry).

With the constant evolution of technology, having Information and Technology (IT) competencies has become crucial to ensure a good professional integration for youths. However, if Internet and technological tools such as computers, tablet computers and smartphones are not used properly, they can also represent a danger for young people. Indeed, criminal networks use internet platforms and social networks to recruit victims through false promises of employment.

For these reasons, IOM organized, in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Nouakchott, a three-month training for 25 young migrants to develop their capacities in the field of IT. The daily four-hour training will help them to better respond to employers’ demand and therefore, facilitate their entry in the job market.

“Nowadays, we cannot do anything without IT knowledge. It is important to introduce the youth to this activity”, said Kamdem (Cameroon). Furthermore, this training will enable them to learn how to work as a team and in a multicultural environment.

Project funded by the Federal Republic of Germany
Near 4,000 beneficiaries were trained on hygiene practices and fight against malaria in the department of Bassikounou

In the south-east of Mauritania, diarrheal diseases and malaria constitute the main public health issue. These pathologies could be easily reduced if people knew a few basic hygiene measures, easy to implement and at low cost.

Thus, in the framework of the project “Community stabilization and conflict prevention” with funding from the Government of the United States, IOM offered a training on hygiene and the fight against malaria to nearly 4,000 children in schools and female “heads of households” in 10 locations in the department of Bassikounou. The training took place in June, before the rainy season, period of time when diseases are the most frequent.

To do so, 10 health assistants were trained and served as awareness relays on body and hands hygiene (with soap distribution), housing hygiene, food hygiene and water purification methods. They also taught different ways to fight against malaria, including prevention of spread of anopheles (mosquitos and main source of malaria), protection against mosquitos’ bites and diseases treatment.

The participatory teaching method enabled the evaluation of participants’ knowledge and the correction of false believes.
Training on i2, system to visualize the available data within the risk analysis cell

In the framework of the project “Enhancing the Collective Capacity for Borders Management and for Protecting border Communities between Mauritania and Mali” financed by the Government of Japan, IOM organized a training from 1 to 12 August, in order to improve technics and investigation tools through i2 visual analysis within the Risk Analysis Cell of the National Surveillance Directorate (DST), of the General Directorate of Public Security (DGSN) and of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC).

During the second week of training, the Malian police officers had the opportunity to exchange with their Mauritanian colleagues and work together on a practical case based on the scheme set up within the Risk Analysis Cell. They also benefitted from their experience on the investigation tools through visual analysis for a better control of migration flows and an integrated and coordinated management of border posts between Mauritania and Mali.

The training enabled the improvement of technics and investigation tools through i2 visual analysis within the Risk Analysis Cell of the National Surveillance Directorate (DST), of the General Directorate of Public Security (DGSN) and of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC). ©IOM 2016

Handover of certificates to participants. ©IOM 2016

Project funded by the Government of Japan
On 2 August, IOM Mauritania held a ceremony for the donation of equipment and materials for immigration and border management in Nouakchott, with funding from the European Union.

The equipment was officially handed over to the gendarmerie and the police in the presence of representatives of the Delegation of the European Union, the Central Bureau of Investigation of the Gendarmerie, the General Directorate of National Security (DGSN), the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance (DST), the services of the Ministry of Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC), as well as donors and partners from embassies and United Nations System.

Mr. Mohammed O. Denna O. Essaissah, Director of Surveillance of the Territory, acknowledged the efforts and the assistance of technical and financial partners, including IOM, which enabled Mauritania to become the reference on border management in the region.

In total, more than 600 pieces of equipment were donated.

Professional magnifying glasses for the detection of forged documents with integrated white light and UV lamp. Those devices will be distributed to the border posts of the police and gendarmerie as well as the police academy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 first aid kits</td>
<td>Cases with medical equipment to provide first aid. Those kits will be distributed to the border posts of the police and gendarmerie. They will supplement the first aid training given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 advanced device to examine forged documents</td>
<td>This very sophisticated device is connected to a computer system and enables the verification of all kind of documents in a very precise way. It will be used at the office of documentary fraud of the DGSN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 handbook of border posts control</td>
<td>This handbook contains procedures that front lines agents at border posts must apply at arrival and departure of travellers and residents. It takes into account specificities of border posts in Mauritania. The handbooks will be distributed to all the border posts of the police and gendarmerie as well as the police academy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 high frequency radios</td>
<td>These radios enable communication over long distances but also transfer of digital data, which will facilitate the sending of recorded data at border posts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 hard drives 500 GB</td>
<td>These hard drives of high storage capacity will enable, in each region, to collect travellers’ movement data at border posts and to share them regularly with the DST.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 passport readers</td>
<td>These passport readers can decipher information contained in a passport including the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ). Information can be directly registered in the system rather than entered manually. Passport readers will be distributed to the police academy in order to train new police officers on this material as well as the DST.</td>
</tr>
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Project funded by the European Union
End of the Project “Community stabilization and conflict prevention”

The project, implemented in the southeast of Mauritania and financed by the Government of the United States, had started in August 2015. It ended a year later.

Focus on the activities and results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutritional supplement for animals</th>
<th>102 tons of nutritional food for animals were distributed to 1,139 households to avoid animal loss during drought season.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination park</td>
<td>To improve cattle health, a vaccination park was built and 14,580 cattle vaccinated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughterhouse</td>
<td>A modern slaughterhouse was built with running water, water disposal, appropriate tools and a dumpster. Since its inauguration at the end of May 2016, 2,604 animals were slaughtered in better hygiene conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar lamps</td>
<td>625 solar lamps were distributed to enable women, elderly and children to keep doing their domestic work or homework after sunset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trees</td>
<td>1,300 local and fruit trees were distributed in M’bera refugee camp to raise awareness about desertification and the importance of having a healthy and sustainable environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing hygiene practices</td>
<td>3,934 children in schools and female “heads of households” in 10 locations were trained on good hygiene practices and fight against malaria.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Integrated farm in Adala**

Set up of Adala farm which combines three activities (fish farming, chicken coops, vegetable gardens) in an interdependent system. Food is produced in a sustainable way, with minimum external input.

**First results:**

**Okras, melons and watermelons**
- Net income of 51,000 MRO (approx. USD 145)
- 35kg of dry okras awaiting to be sold at the price of 1,000 MRO/kg (approx. USD 3.5/kg)

**Chicken**
- 560 chicken sold, net income of 915,000 MRO (approx. USD 2,500)

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**Mixed committees***

25 mixed committees were created to look for local solutions, discuss and ease tensions between hosts communities and refugees.

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**Additional activities**

**Water pumping system**

Implementation of a hybrid water pumping system (solar + thermic energy), which reduces the price of water to 200 MRO (approx. USD 0.7) against 500 MRO (approx. USD 1.75) for the thermic system.

**Information billboard for the farm**

Creation of illustrated panels to explain the integrated farm cycle and the different activities steps, in order to ensure their sustainability.
Mixed committees

In an effort to identify local solutions to tensions that have been arising between refugees and host communities, mixed committees were created in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Principal potential causes of conflict are to be found in the share of scarce natural resources, the rising sexual harassment against women, livestock theft and the lack of inter- and intra-community forum for dialogue despite the already existing mixed-committees.

So far, OHCHR was able to establish or revitalize no less than 25 committees. To achieve this result, the agency realized awareness campaigns to involve and mobilize villagers on the project. In coordination with IOM field staff and the Hakem, elections were then held to make sure the committees benefit from a structured and proactive management. Elected members received special focused trainings on internal management, communication and advocacy, gender and human rights. Furthermore, they were sensitized on the importance of involving the vulnerable groups on the committee’s actions.

Considering a large number of committees existing in the region and used by different agencies and NGOs, OHCHR has organized a meeting with relevant humanitarian partners in Nouakchott. The aim of the reunion was to agree that all partners will be using the same – and only - committee per village. This agreement avoids overlapping of activities, more inclusiveness and transparency in committee’s management and ensure better coordination between the relevant stakeholders, especially in regards to the humanitarian assistance provided in the region.

Farm land in Adala integrated Farm. ©IOM/A. Bee 2016
Local communities engagement for a reinforced and sustainable borders management

From June to July 2016, several awareness raising events were held in the transnational areas between Mauritania and Mali.

Furthermore, for a reinforced border security, communication tools (radio stations and mobile phones) were distributed in the area of Gogui Zemal.

These activities fall within the framework of an improved collective capacity of border management and transnational communities’ protection between Mauritania and Mali, financed by the Government of Japan.

Awareness campaign for transnational local communities

From 10 to 18 June, an awareness raising campaign on migration and border management took place in Aioun and in the area of Gogui Zemal.

In Aioun, the local NGO ADICOR organized an awareness raising session for 22 youth associations, followed by another mass awareness raising campaign in the youth centre with financial and technical support of IOM.

More than 50 youths participated in this awareness raising campaign, including 20 young students, as well as a few female leaders, the majority of whom are activists from local social organizations. This campaign was the opportunity to assess their knowledge on themes related to irregular migration, terrorism, weapons and drug trafficking as well as conflicts between herders and farmers and to suggest different concrete solutions to these daily issues.

In Gogui Zemal, different meetings served as the opportunities to exchange opinions on migration, which includes a phenomenon rooted in the customs in this geographical area, and to discuss the different types of migration (such as political and economic) and their impacts, as well as organized crimes, mostly livestock theft.

Photo opposite:
Awareness campaign in Aioun.
©IOM 2016
Distribution of radios/phones

IOM, in collaboration with the national NGO ADICOR, carried out a mission of beneficiaries’ identification and distribution of tools (radios and mobile phones) for the local communities of the Gogui Zemal commune.

During this mission, which took place from 9 to 15 July in the presence of local and administrative authorities, 500 radios and 20 phones were distributed in 5 communities. These tools will enable local population to be informed in real time about the security situation in the region.

More than 500 radios were distributed in 5 communities. ©IOM 2016

Mobiles phones and radios will help the population to stay informed on the security situation in the area. ©IOM 2016
Training on Human and Migrants rights for police officers, gendarmes and civil society

In the framework of training activities of the project “Strengthening migration management in Mauritania through a better border management strategy and assistance to irregular migrants”, IOM organized three training workshops in July and August.

Training for law enforcement entities in Nouadhibou (14 police officers and 6 gendarmes) and in Rosso (12 police officers and 6 gendarmes)

The trainer presented different international and national texts, in particular the constitution criminalizing physical or psychological torture used to extort information or confessions. During the two trainings, the international convention related to the rights of migrants was extensively debated by the participants. Legal provisions to protect migrants from abuses were also discussed as well as the possibility of appeal. Legal proceedings related to custody, preventive detention and warrants were presented by the trainer. Magistrates brought clarifications and details for the participants.

Training for civil society and migrants’ representatives in Rosso

This training enabled participants to familiarize themselves with national and international human rights protection mechanisms in general and particularly migrants’ rights. Practical cases of violations were discussed, amongst them arbitrary detentions, deportation with military means as well as difficulties in obtaining resident permit.

Project funded by the European Union

38 gendarmes and police officers participated in the training.
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Implementation or restructuring of management committees in integrated farms and vegetable gardens set up by IOM

Since the beginning of its activities in the south-east of Mauritania in 2013, IOM has set up four integrated farms and three vegetable gardens to help address food insecurity and enhance livelihoods of Malian refugees and host communities.

In order to ensure the durability of farms beyond the project deadline, IOM hired a consultant in charge of following and training beneficiaries about the management of the farm. Thus, management committees were created to improve the organization within the farms and the gardens.

How does a management committee work? What are the roles and responsibilities?

In the integrated farm of Adala, built in February 2016 thanks to the funding of the Government of the United States, a management committee of 12 people was created.

This 100% feminine committee comprises of a president, a secretary general, a treasurer, an external relation manager and delegates for each of the three activities (fish farming, chicken coop, vegetable gardening). Each member can count on a substitute to ensure the interim. Members meet twice a month.

The president: She leads the committee and coordinates the activities, reports to the general assembly. With her signature, she validates actions that enable the good functioning of the organization. She carries out the planning of activities and ensures their implementation.

The treasurer: She keeps accounts and ensure the registration of all financial activities through her tools (cash books, receipts, bills...)

The secretary general: She drafts letters, minutes of meetings, convening notices and manage archives. She organizes visitors’ reception, registers different document and keeps membership register.

The delegate: She organizes the tasks of the activity and follow their implementation according to the plan.

Project funded by the Government of the United States of America
AVRR – Micro-collective reintegration for 60 beneficiaries

The concept of micro-collective reintegration will be tested this autumn for the first time by IOM Mauritania, which is currently working on a project with 60 beneficiaries from Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, co-funded by the European Union and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain.

What is the micro-collective reintegration?

This concept involves the community so that each returnee, facing a potential difficulty during his/her reintegration after spending many years abroad, would be supported by the host community. Each returnee benefits from career counselling sessions, then, according to his/her needs, education and financial contribution to help finance a professional project or activity that he/she wishes to develop. Each beneficiary could also benefit from psychological support.

Under the supervision of the communes and IOM, services platforms and NGO ensure the good implementation of reintegration projects.

Micro-collective reintegration offers a double advantage; the choice of project is based on each returnee’s will, rooted in the socio-economic reality of the country and therefore, its durability is ensured, while contributing to the development of the community.

IOM Mauritania raises awareness about STD/HIV/AIDS among AVRR beneficiaries

IOM’s partner NGO STOP SIDA organized two sessions of prevention against HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) for 20 candidates of voluntary return. Theses awareness raising days, animated by a dermatologist and a gynaecologist took place on 6-7 June and 12-13 July.

An HIV infected person came to answer to participants’ questions and described his daily life with his wife and child. This enabled participants to wipe out the myth of the disease and will encourage them to better protect themselves and serve as an information relay among their own communities.
Joint training with IOM Mali on diverse themes linked to border management

From 7 to 16 June, IOM Mauritania organized a joint training with IOM Mali on border management and migration, identification of forged documents, fight against trafficking in persons and humanitarian border management. This training is part of the bilateral project “Enhancing the Collective Capacity for Borders Management and for Protecting border Communities between Mauritania and Mali” with funding from the Government of Japan.

Eight Mauritanian police officers and eight Malian police officers working in the transnational area, benefited from the joint training.

Participants were very satisfied with the training and underlined the quality and the importance of training modules for the exercise of the missions, relationships created within the group as well as the exchange of contacts.

Participants took part in training on detection of forged documents, fight against trafficking in persons and humanitarian border management. ©IOM 2016

Eight Mauritanian police officers and eight Malian police officers benefited from this joint training. ©IOM 2016

Project funded by the Government of Japan
Awareness raising day against trafficking in persons in Dar Naïm, Nouakchott

On August 5, on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (July 30), IOM launched an awareness campaign against trafficking in persons in Mauritania entitled “Because we are all humans”. The campaign is part of the project “Countering trafficking in persons” with funding from the Federal Republic of Germany.

The campaign aims at raising awareness among the general public, in particular youths and vulnerable people, on the risks linked to the trafficking in persons in Mauritania.

The opening event took place in the school of Dar Naim, in the outskirts of Nouakchott and one of the area with numerous victims and potential victims of trafficking. The General Secretary of Dar Naim “Wilaya” attended, witnessing the interest and the willingness of the government to address this phenomenon in the country.

The day started with medical consultations for more than 450 people and the distribution of medication organized in collaboration with the NGO Entraide et Solidarité. Once the consultations ended, artists from the neighbourhood filled the school with music and cultural performances on the theme of trafficking in persons.

The 800 visitors, a majority of whom women and children, received awareness raising materials with the colours of the campaign such as veils, caps, T-shirts, note-books, ludo games distributed by IOM staff as well as the team from the consulting and business training firm who came to support IOM in the organization of this event. In order to cope with the rainy season and numerous mosquitoes, mosquito nets impregnated with repellent were also distributed.

The 800 visitors, a majority of whom women and children, received awareness raising material with the colours of the campaign. ©IOM/F. Giordani 2016
The Story of Awa

In Senegal, I had been working as a seamstress for three years when one day, I said to my boss “I am leaving!” He asked me why I wanted to abandon everything. I answered that I needed to take my mind off things, discover another country. I arrived in Mauritania and worked as a cook in a Moorish family for one year. The work was very hard, I left this job and went back to Senegal for the holidays and to think about my future. My dream was to open a tailoring shop but there were already many in Senegal. On the contrary, in Mauritania, they were quite uncommon and the market was still open. After these three months of holidays in Senegal, I decided to go back to Mauritania. My parents were against my project, they were scared for me because I was a single woman. My heart was heavy to leave them but I had to attempt the adventure, see what was outside. I had to live my life.

I met a woman who let me stay with her. I had a small sewing machine that my mum bought for me and I did some sewing for a month. Then, I found a job at the French Development Agency as a cleaning lady. My boss was very nice, he covered the cost of French classes. In the language school, I met a Spanish woman but we lost sight of each other. Coincidentally, I bumped into her six months later and when I told her about my issues at work since

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my former boss left, she said “Hey, come and work with me!” I went to Nouadhibou with her and I became a waitress in her guesthouse.

One day, I saw a fabric pouch and told her “I can make one!” She was surprised and asked me “Why are you working as a cleaning lady or waitress?” I explained to her that it was difficult to open a sewing shop. She gave me some work to do and really liked it, she said “You must work in the field of sewing” and did everything to encourage me. We opened a sewing shop together in Nouakchott. At the beginning it was difficult, but hamdoulilah, now it goes well. I thank her a lot because she did not know me well but she trusted me. She liked my work and gave me courage. I did everything to succeed, I am ambitious. Now I do what I like and I have more self-confidence.

At the beginning, it was not easy to live in Mauritania because people look at you, especially if you are different. People are very curious, if you are taking a walk with a man, they ask you if you are married, if he is your boyfriend. This is something that bothers me, and still does. Mindsets and cultures are very different from my country. But in spite of it, I like Mauritania more and more every year.

Once a year, I go back to Senegal, which makes me happy, especially to see my mum. I miss the atmosphere in Senegal a lot, talking to people and eating a real théboudiène. In a few years, I would like to go back home and open a large sewing shop. I would like to do something in Senegal, in my country... Or somewhere else. At the moment, I am in Mauritania but I have other projects in mind.

What I want above all is to continue sewing.

I am a migrant gives migrants an opportunity to tell and share their own stories - on the website, on social networks and elsewhere. All together, let’s reveal the human face of migration.

www.iamamigrant.org