

January 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND MALI - SAHEL



Given its location and 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. Security threats facing the country in recent years have increased with the expansion of transnational criminal networks, the increased presence of terrorist organizations operating in the area, especially after the outbreak of armed conflict in northern Mali in 2012. Border crossings between Mauritania and Mali are often poorly manned and equipped. In addition, communication between regional and central offices is generally low and several unofficial border crossings remain uncontrolled. This makes the enhancement of the collective capacity of border management essential in the interest of the protection of the people.

To ensure an effective management of the border area between Mauritania and Mali, thanks to the funding by the government of Japan, IOM offices in both countries implement a project for Mauritania to help Malian border officials develop a national strategy for border management and to improve bilateral coordination and collaboration by border officials. IOM aims at creating synergies among various complementary programs IOM is implementing in order to enhance border security and border management capacity in the Sahel Region as a whole.



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.



Enhancing the Collective Capacity for Borders Management and for Protecting border Communities between Mauritania and Mali

The 24-month project funded by the government of Japan and jointly implemented by IOM Mauritania and IOM Mali contributes to the stronger collective capacity to manage and protect the border between Mali and Mauritania and to facilitate cooperation between the border police of both countries for the safety around vulnerable border areas. The involvement of local communities is a key aspect for the success of this project. IOM is committed to ensuring their safety through their active and regular participation.

Duration: 24 months
(March 2015 - March 2017)

Budget: 3.000.000 USD

Primary Objective

Enhancement of collective border management capacity and protection of border communities between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Mali.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES IN MAURITANIA

Objectives

1. Develop a national border management strategy for Mali in order to increase its compatibility with the existing national strategy for Mauritania;
2. Strengthen bilateral coordination and promote information sharing among border police officers in both countries;
3. Revitalize the Risk Analysis Unit within the DST;
4. Improve the services provided by the border police posts and involve local residents in border security.



Activities

1. Organization of regional workshops to review the Malian National Policy Borders;
2. Organization of bilateral meetings at the Gogi Zamal and Adel Bagrou border posts in South-eastern Mauritania;
3. Training of border police officers on the utilization of the i2 analysis tool in collaboration with officers from Mali;
4. Completion of an initial survey on the perception of the work and behavior of the police at border crossings and on the commitment of border communities in border security.

This project is funded by the Government of Japan:



From
the People of Japan