THIS PROGRAMME AIMS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCED IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT FOR SAFE AND ORDERLY MIGRATION WITHIN AND THROUGH SOMALIA THEREBY MITIGATING SECURITY THREATS.

Background
Despite the relative return to peace and stability in Somalia its expansive land, air and sea borders remain relatively porous due to years of conflict, resulting into irregular migration flows across its borders, unregulated labor migration and trans-national crimes such as terrorism, piracy, human trafficking and smuggling of contrabands, these are some of the contributing factors to Somalia’s instability and can gradually exacerbate the political and security gains Somalia has made to date if not dealt with effectively.

Since 2007, International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been working closely with Somalia government to strengthen and respond to the need for innovative solutions to manage the ever increasing migration flows through an effective immigration and border management, which is a source of security, revenue, fosters economic stability and diplomatic relationships with the neighboring countries.

IOM Objectives

a) Promoting safe and orderly migration
IOM helps facilitate safe and orderly migration of vulnerable Mobile Migrant Populations (MMPs) through regulating immigration and border management. IOM is working with the government and the regional authorities to advance the understanding of migration issues encourage social and economic development through migration, and upholding the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

b) Mitigation of security threats
While maximizing the benefits of regulated migration, IOM aims to enhance Somalia’s security through immigration and border management trainings of the immigration officers in immigration processes including detection of forged travel documents, imposters, installation of Migration information and Data Analysis system (MIDAS) database at the ports of entry which enables the immigration to cross-check travelers on alert lists.

IBM SOMALIA THEMATIC PILLARS

1. Helping develop policies and legislation
IOM assists the authorities in development of legislation and policies. The immigration law of Somalia dates back to the 60s and needs to be updated in order to address the challenges and issues brought out in the last few decades. With the provisional constitution of Somalia in place in 2012, IOM has enhanced advocacy within the government geared towards support to development of policies and laws aligned to current immigration trends necessary for regulating immigration and border management.

IOM IN ACTION

- IOM has assisted in establishment of 12 ports of entry (seven airports, three sea ports, two land posts and six immigration offices). IOM, in consultation with the Somali authorities, has clarified a minimum standard for infrastructure and equipment, and future assistance will be considered to fulfill the standard.

- To date, MIDAS database has been installed at 12 ports of entry. (Five in Somaliland, four in Puntland and three in Federal Government of Somalia and one in Interim Jubaland administration), followed up by training of the immigration officers on use of the database. With the internet connectivity installed in Somaliland, the five ports of entry can regularly send the MIDAS data to the headquarters.

- A total of 492,882 Migrants travelling through Somalia annually are processed through the MIDAS at the ports of entry

- Three organizational management experts have been seconded to Federal Government, Somaliland and Puntland to establish an organizational structure and review the human resource policies.

- A total of 147 frontline immigration officers have been trained on document examination and use of the MIDAS.

- IOM has held five major regional collaboration meetings with Somalia authorities and plans to extend regional cooperation with neighboring governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti and Yemen.
2. Infrastructure and equipment development

IOM has been upgrading the infrastructure of the land, sea and air ports of entry offices for the immigration authorities to conduct effective immigration process. The activities under this thematic focus include: construction or renovation of the ports of entry, installation of the immigration booths and security equipment such as luggage scanners and walk-through metal detectors and provision of office equipment among others.

3. Improving Border Information Management Systems (BIMS)

IOM is assisting the government and the regional authorities to install a computerized BIMS at the ports of entry. The Migration information and Data Analysis System - MIDAS database, developed by IOM registers passport details and fingerprints of travelers and has the capacity to generate statistics, thus providing immigration trends, a data useful not only for the immigration but also for other ministries as a basis of formulating policy, legislation as well as plans for intelligence and security management. This database can be linked with additional data sources such as international and national alert lists including Inter-pol’s database. IOM is also assisting the immigration to build their IT capacity to maintain the systems.

While IOM plans to assist the authorities to expand the MIDAS use to other ports of entry through installation and training of the immigration officers in the database, it is critical for these officers to also conduct physical human check of the travelers. IOM continues to help the authorities in training of the officers in immigration processes including document examination.

4. Facilitating inter-agency and regional collaboration

Effective immigration and border management requires close collaboration, both at the policy and operational levels, between different institutions such as the civil aviation, port authority, immigration, customs, and health as well as law enforcement agencies. The close working relationship between these institutions is a foundation for the successful inter-regional collaboration with regards to border management. With a long-term objective of effective regional collaboration in mind, IOM is working with the Federal Government and the regional authorities in standardization and harmonization of the immigration and border management in Somalia.

5. Support to Organizational Development and Management

Effective service delivery of any institution is a result of effective Human Resource (HR), procurement and finance management. In order for assistance from IOM and other donors to be effective in immigration and border management, IOM has commenced support to strengthening organizational development and management of the immigration department.

Establishing a clear organizational structure, clarifying the assignments of the officers based on a documented Terms of Reference (TOR) and their reporting lines are a few of the activities supported by IOM. IOM has sought for a strategic synergy with Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) programme, which recruits Somali diaspora with necessary qualifications to the public institutions for skill transfer, and seconds the experts to the immigration.

“Regardless of the challenging environments the immigration officers work in Somalia, the immigration department is keen on institutional development and the federal government is at the forefront to ensure effective and demonstrable results is achieved through leading collaboration efforts with other regional administration to address immigration challenges in Somalia.”