Addressing Migration and Displacement Challenges in Somalia: A Year in Review

IOM Somalia // 2016 Annual Report
Looking back on 2016, we are proud of what IOM Somalia accomplished thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our staff.

This year, Somalia issued its first National Development Plan (NDP) in over 30 years. The NDP constitutes a remarkable milestone for a country that is still suffering from the aftermath of a protracted and devastating civil war that impoverished many of its citizens and incapacitated most of its institutions. Thanks to IOM Somalia’s lobbying, migration was mentioned in several chapters (relating to health, labour, etc.) and there are two sections dedicated entirely to “Diaspora” 9.6 and “Mixed Migration” 9.7.

Alongside this milestone achievement, we are also mindful of the challenges inherent in providing humanitarian and emergency assistance in Somalia. In some instances, we fell short.

We remember with humility that IOM Somalia plays a vital yet overall small part in our beneficiaries’ struggle for security, dignity and access to basic social services. Humanitarian and emergency aid alone cannot end conflicts — they require political solutions. We can only hope to help people become more resilient, which they achieve largely through their own courage, determination, effort and sacrifice, and often at terrible personal costs.

Furthermore, in response to the long-neglected recurrent droughts, IOM Somalia scaled up its operations to meet the rapidly increasing needs of people brutalized by the pangs of Somalia’s natural disasters. Yet we struggled to draw the attention of the international community to increase aid and provide desperately needed services for those caught in the midst of the drought.

Even as the country in which we serve evolves and new obstacles arise, IOM Somalia stands firmly committed to the humanitarian principles that have inspired us for 65 years. In 2017, we will continue to work with Somali authorities to reduce the levels and impact of forced migration and to increase government capacity to respond to crises and to manage migration in a way that builds the affected communities’ resilience.

Gerard Waite
Chief of Mission, IOM Somalia
IOM SOMALIA’S DURABLE SOLUTIONS THEORY OF CHANGE

DONOR SUPPORT

- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF)
- European Union (EU)
- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- Government of United Kingdom
- Government of Italy
- Government of Japan
- Government of Norway
- Government of Finland
- Government of the Netherlands
- Government of Sweden
- Government of the United States of America
- IOM Development Fund
- King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre
- OXFAM Novib
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)
- African Development Bank (AFDB)
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
In 2016, IOM made a substantial contribution to the strengthening of Somalia’s immigration and border management capacity. Areas strengthened through IOM’s programming included organizational development, infrastructure, data management and humanitarian border management. Critical institutional foundations were laid through the support of three Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Organizational and Human Resources (HR) Experts, who developed HR policies and organizational structures endorsed by immigration headquarters in Mogadishu, Puntland and Somaliland. A total of 236 immigration officers, including 35 females, were trained on new HR policies, and a pilot HR database was created in Somaliland to enable staff recordkeeping. Immigration officers throughout the country were equipped with uniforms and ID cards, to provide a sense of professionalism and unity. Cooperation between regional authorities and the Federal Government of
Insecurity in some regions continued to challenge capacity building efforts; and the abrupt deportation of Somalis, in thousands, coupled with influx of returnees from Yemen and Dadaab camp in Kenya, stretched the Immigration Department's newly developed capacities and strained IOM’s ability to coordinate capacity building activities.

IOM also supported the development of key infrastructure to increase Somalia’s operational capacities in immigration and border management. An alternative hybrid energy supply was built for the Bender Qasim International Airport in Bossaso, which will ensure uninterrupted power to essential immigration and security services. The hybrid energy source uses innovative solar and wind technology and is the first of its kind in the East and Horn of Africa Region. To crown the year, significant construction took place in Puntland where an Immigration Headquarter Complex was established, equipped and handed over to the department.

In the course of the year, IOM made significant headway in upgrading Somalia’s border management information system, MIDAS (Migration Information and Data Analysis System), to Version 4 (V4). MIDAS is an IOM-developed technology, which is currently present at 12 Points of Entry across the country. The V4 upgrade, combined with IOM activities to improve connectivity, means that data captured can now be seamlessly shared with Somali immigration headquarters and is linked to Interpol and national alert lists in real-time. In 2016, 70 immigration officers were trained in the use of V4, with upgrades and training set to continue in 2017. Somalia’s Immigration Department announced in 2016 that for the first time in many years, it had an operating border point on the Somalia/Kenya border. IOM’s contribution to this hallmark included the provision of MIDAS equipment and mobile patrol units, as well as the induction training of immigration officers stationed at the border. In total, IOM increased the capacity of Somalia’s immigration and border management authorities through the training of 381 immigration officers, including 55 females in 2016.

Insecurity in some regions continued to challenge capacity building efforts; and the abrupt deportation of Somalis, in thousands, coupled with influx of returnees from Yemen and Dadaab camp in Kenya, stretched the Immigration Department’s newly developed capacities and strained IOM’s ability to coordinate capacity building activities.

**CHALLENGES**

Insecurity in some regions continued to challenge capacity building efforts; and the abrupt deportation of Somalis, in thousands, coupled with influx of returnees from Yemen and Dadaab camp in Kenya, stretched the Immigration Department’s newly developed capacities and strained IOM’s ability to coordinate capacity building activities.

---

**70 immigration officers trained in use of MIDAS V4**

**381 immigration officers trained by IOM**

**236 immigration officers trained on new policies**
MIGRANT ASSISTANCE DIVISION (MAD)

In 2016, IOM supported Somali authorities to strengthen their capacity to protect and assist migrants in need. Their capacity was enhanced in areas of infrastructure, organizational development, and direct assistance to communities in need.

With regard to equipment, IOM donated one vehicle each to the Gaalkacyo and Bossaso police units to boost the effectiveness of their counter-trafficking patrol teams.

Vis-à-vis organizational development, a Human Trafficking Legal Expert who was hired by IOM helped develop Puntland’s Human Trafficking Law, which is currently being reviewed by the local parliament. IOM also played a critical role in supporting the Puntland Counter-Trafficking Board to develop a strategic response plan that guides its approach to issues of human trafficking. Furthermore, a total of 209 people (police officers, government officials, immigration officials, and journalists) benefitted from trainings on detecting and addressing human trafficking and smuggling.

IOM also provided direct assistance comprising of food, clothing, shelter, legal aid, medical aid, counselling, return and reintegration support for 23 potential and actual victims of trafficking, a majority of whom were children under the age of 18. Additionally IOM conducted mass awareness campaigns to sensitize local communities about human trafficking and smuggling.

Under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme, IOM supported the safe and dignified return of more than 90 Somali nationals from different parts of the world including from Africa (Sudan and Egypt), Asia (Indonesia), and Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland). While reintegration is ongoing, many have started promising income generating activities. Linked to AVRR, IOM also helps migrants who are stranded in Somalia to safely return home. In 2016, a total of 163 stranded migrants of different nationalities were assisted through this programme.

CHALLENGES

Somalia’s porous borders made it difficult to effectively detect all cases of human trafficking; more studies need to be conducted on the prevalence and patterns of human trafficking in Somalia.
IOM provided lifesaving Primary Healthcare to vulnerable populations throughout Somalia, working in full coordination with the Somali government, the Somalia Health Cluster, WHO and UNICEF.

In addition to providing emergency care, the interventions contributed to the longer term sustainability of quality healthcare through a number of activities which included maintenance and critical repairs of health facilities, capacity building for health workers, health promotion and community mobilisation.

In 2016, 95 healthcare workers were trained, and a total of 229,415 beneficiaries were assisted through direct medical consultations at IOM-managed clinics (fixed and mobile). The clinics are based in 13 locations across the country.
In addition to the limited ability to reach the most vulnerable populations due to insecurity, the needs on the ground far outstripped available funding. IOM actively mobilized resources to address service delivery gaps.

The services, provided as part of the minimum basic health package, included outpatient treatment of acute and chronic communicable and non-communicable diseases; basic maternal care such as antenatal care and the promotion of safe pregnancies and deliveries; child health services, including screening and community-based management of malnutrition and immunizations; and facilitation of referrals. Additional activities included community mobilization, activities in response to public health threats, health workers’ training and health promotion campaigns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>229,415 direct medical consultations in 2016:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130,582 Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98,833 Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88,050 Children Under 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 4,412 Consultations per week on average    |

| 95 Healthcare workers trained              |

| 13 Health facilities supported             |

**CHALLENGES**

In addition to the limited ability to reach the most vulnerable populations due to insecurity, the needs on the ground far outstripped available funding. IOM actively mobilized resources to address service delivery gaps.
In 2016, IOM recruited 43 Somali diaspora and local technical experts (35 male and 8 female) on capacity building assignments within government institutions across Somalia. These experts conducted numerous targeted trainings as well as day-to-day on-the-job training and mentorship for the local staff and interns at various government institutions within Somalia.

Furthermore, in order to tackle high irregular migration and unemployment among Somali youth, IOM supported the establishment of a job centre in Borama, Somaliland, aimed at increasing job opportunities for the Somali youth through provision of vocational and entrepreneurship trainings, mentorship and career service for young women and men. The demand for career services surpassed the expectations, since during the 6-month time 700 young people (424 men and 276 women) received career service against the anticipated 100 persons.

Additionally, IOM extended its capacity building support to the Federal Government of Somalia’s Office of the Diaspora Affairs through the recruitment of a policy planning expert to assist with the development of an all-encompassing National Diaspora Policy. Also, to raise awareness about the opportunities of Somali diaspora professionals to contribute to the development of Somalia through the MIDA programme, IOM organized its fifth outreach tour in October and November 2016. A total of 265 (186 male and 79 female) individuals from the Somali diaspora attended these outreach events in Washington DC and Seattle in the US, Toronto and Ottawa in Canada, Berlin in Germany, Borlänge and Stockholm in Sweden, and Oslo in Norway.

In 2016, IOM recruited 43 Somali diaspora and local technical experts (35 male and 8 female) on capacity building assignments within government institutions across Somalia. These experts conducted numerous targeted trainings as well as day-to-day on-the-job training and mentorship for the local staff and interns at various government institutions within Somalia. Furthermore, in order to tackle high irregular migration and unemployment among Somali youth, IOM supported the establishment of a job centre in Borama, Somaliland, aimed at increasing job opportunities for the Somali youth through provision of vocational and entrepreneurship trainings, mentorship and career service for young women and men. The demand for career services surpassed the expectations, since during the 6-month time 700 young people (424 men and 276 women) received career service against the anticipated 100 persons.

Additionally, IOM extended its capacity building support to the Federal Government of Somalia’s Office of the Diaspora Affairs through the recruitment of a policy planning expert to assist with the development of an all-encompassing National Diaspora Policy. Also, to raise awareness about the opportunities of Somali diaspora professionals to contribute to the development of Somalia through the MIDA programme, IOM organized its fifth outreach tour in October and November 2016. A total of 265 (186 male and 79 female) individuals from the Somali diaspora attended these outreach events in Washington DC and Seattle in the US, Toronto and Ottawa in Canada, Berlin in Germany, Borlänge and Stockholm in Sweden, and Oslo in Norway.

Since it was rolled out in Somalia, the MIDA programme has recruited a total of 430 Somali diaspora professionals who have built the capacity of government institutions in Somalia.

265 individuals from the Somali diaspora attended outreach events

43 Somali diaspora and local technical experts recruited on capacity building assignments (35 male and 8 female)

CHALLENGES

The lack of qualified female applicants for MIDA positions persisted throughout the year, exacerbated by the security concerns within Mogadishu and parts of Puntland. To attract more female applicants, IOM offered flexible deployment options, and ensured that female MIDA participants were more actively involved in outreach activities for the diaspora.
In total, 34,454 Somali migrants and returnees from Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Kenya were assisted in 2016 with temporary accommodation, onward transport, and other basic services such as food and access to health services. The refugee returnees from Kenya were assisted at the IOM-managed way station in Dhobley and the reception centre in Mogadishu. The forcibly returned Somali migrants from KSA and those fleeing Yemen were provided with comprehensive reception services in Mogadishu as well as Bossaso and Berbera respectively.

The majority of the returnees travelled onward to the southern and central parts of Somalia, namely Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa. IOM also successfully organized its first sea evacuation of 127 Somali nationals (55 female and 72 male) from Aden in Yemen to Berbera, Somaliland in November 2016.
RETURN, RECOVERY AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS (RRDS)

Furthermore, a wide range of reintegration activities were carried out towards achieving durable solutions for returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia. This includes: provision of training and fishing gear to 90 IDP fishermen in Berbera and Bosaso; and provision of business management training and business cash grants worth $500 to 42 returnees from Yemen and 20 IDP and host community households in Bosaso.

In Somaliland, an eight-day training workshop targeting a total of 30 (28 male and 2 female) immigration and coastal guard officers based in Hargeisa and Berbera was conducted in October 2016. The training focused on increasing the capacity of relevant government officials in protection and data management of Yemeni refugees, Somali returnees and migrants from Yemen. The aim of the training was to strengthen the institutional capacity of immigration and coastal guard officials by imparting vital skills in protection of vulnerable groups, while responding to individual and mass arrivals, data collection, as well as storage and management of data. Following the training, IOM donated 15 VHF radio equipments, five desktop computers and an air conditioner set to Somaliland’s Berbera immigration office.

In December 2016, a total of 130 beneficiaries (105 female and 25 male) were selected from Burao (70), Hargeisa (40) and Berbera (20) Districts of Somaliland to attended small business management training. The training helped improve the beneficiaries’ knowledge of market assessment, market strategy and targeting of markets among other topics. With the knowledge acquired through the training, the beneficiaries identified their business investment opportunities, including small grocery shops, butcheries, and tailoring shops. The beneficiaries received cash grants to start the approved businesses which will help improve their resilience, access to basic services and quality of life.

CHALLENGES

Given the enormous needs compared to the available financial resources, not all communities and individuals that are in need of assistance to facilitate durable solutions were assisted. IOM endeavours to continue its resource mobilization efforts to expand the coverage of reintegration support. In addition, the planned evacuation movement from Yemen was hampered by suspension imposed by the Somaliland authority due to the outbreak of cholera in Yemen.
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE DIVISION / DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)
In order to improve the availability of information on rapid-onset and protracted displacement situations, the Somalia programme deployed IOM’s globally used Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

In 2016, the newly established DTM teams in Nairobi and Somalia updated standard tools to the Somali context, recruited and trained staff in data collection and completed 3 rounds of data collection in 7 districts.

Following data collection, district level population estimates on populations of concern and their needs, were shared and vetted by humanitarian information and government partners, including the Somali Disaster Management Agency of the Federal Government of Somalia, for feedback before finalization and dissemination. Data collection will continue in 2017 and beyond, making longer-term trend analysis possible. A data-set with information over a longer time frame, will help in anticipating needs and pre-positioning services.

DTM teams in Nairobi and Somalia updated standard tools to the Somali context, recruited and trained staff in data collection

DTM teams in Nairobi and Somalia completed 3 rounds of data collection in 7 districts

CHALLENGES

- A rapidly changing context, security restrictions and a lack of up-to-date geographic and administrative data are obstacles to implementing a statistical operation such as the DTM. IOM’s involvement in the Somali Statistical Working Group ensures DTM’s activities are coordinated with other statistical initiatives.
- Limited presence around the country means that data is not representative of all regions, IOM is actively mobilizing resources to increase its geographic coverage.
- With a proliferation of data collection activities happening in Somalia, respondents are often over-burdened and expectations for services are increasing. IOM’s active role in the Somalia Information Management Working Group (IMWG) aims to minimize any overlap in data collection.
The Gender Based Violence (GBV) Information Management System (GBVIMS) data in 2016 indicated that 75% of the GBV cases took place at IDP settlements. Recent massive displacements due to AMISOM offensives, forced evictions, flooding and drought forced the displaced to migrate to new locations, where they were unlikely to have the social and family support they previously enjoyed at their places of origin. A total of 852 GBV survivors (837 females and 15 males) received full access to IOM’s psychosocial and medical support services in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Garowe, Bosaso and Gaalkacyo. Cumulatively, 37,322 community members (26,607 females and 10,715 males) were reached through IOM’s awareness sessions to educate them on the risks and negative consequences of GBV including the harms of female genital mutilation and available services in Garowe, Bosaso, Gaalkacyo, Kismayo,
Conflict in Gaalkacyo, capital of the north-central Mudug region of Somalia, affected the assistance to survivors as one of the hospitals providing survivor-centred care was partially destroyed in an explosion. Due to the deteriorating security situation and massive displacement some project activities had to stall. Uptake of legal services is still a challenge and there is need to strengthen community member’s confidence in the formal legal system.

Mogadishu, Afgooye and Dhobley. To further enhance the protection of vulnerable community members, IOM provided solar lighting to 14,520 individuals.

37,322 community members were reached through awareness sessions on GBV

14,520 individuals provided with solar lanterns

852 GBV survivors received full access to IOM’s psychosocial and medical support services

26,607 females reached

10,715 males reached

837 females supported

15 males supported

CHALLENGES

Conflict in Gaalkacyo, capital of the north-central Mudug region of Somalia, affected the assistance to survivors as one of the hospitals providing survivor-centred care was partially destroyed in an explosion. Due to the deteriorating security situation and massive displacement some project activities had to stall. Uptake of legal services is still a challenge and there is need to strengthen community member’s confidence in the formal legal system.
The food security situation in Somalia has continued to improve gradually since the 2011 famine, largely due to consecutive good rains and the ongoing delivery of assistance. However, the gains are fragile and the needs remain enormous. Since then, IOM has expanded its focus on both life-saving needs and programming to build up communities’ ability to cope with future droughts and after-shocks; and is committed to working to invest in the resilience programming that is necessary to break the cycle of food security crisis. In 2016, 7,000 households benefitted from IOM’s food security projects, which included the provision of conditional and unconditional cash transfers. Furthermore, 230 farmers and fishers were trained on business management; 150 farmers were given agricultural inputs; and 207 fishers were given fishing gear. IOM also provided over 1,500 goats for drop-out pastoralists who had lost their sources of livelihoods during droughts and floods.

1,500 goats for drop-out pastoralists who had lost their sources of livelihoods during droughts and floods.

1,500 goats distributed

7,000 households benefitted from IOM’s food security projects

230 farmers and fishers trained on business management

150 farmers were given agricultural inputs

207 fishers given fishing gear

CHALLENGES

Challenges encountered in 2016 included: dwindling funding as a result of donor fatigue and increased humanitarian priorities around the world; irrational weather patterns that ranged from droughts to floods; and insecurity that made it difficult to access certain locations. IOM continued to actively mobilize resources and coordinate with humanitarian partners to address gaps.
The humanitarian situation in Somalia deteriorated towards the end of 2016 following severe El Niño-induced drought that expanded from northern to southern central regions, including Lower Juba, Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Galmudug and Hirsabelle. OCHA estimated that 3.3 million individuals had limited access to basic services, such as emergency healthcare and access to WASH. In response, IOM commenced the rehabilitation of strategic water sources such as boreholes and shallow wells. IOM replaced rusted water pipes, pumps and engines, and then quickly moved to rehabilitate animal troughs, water tanks and kiosks to ensure proper water storage and a place where animals could drink water. The rehabilitation was completed in early May 2016. As a result of this project, thousands of people and livestock were provided with safe water. Throughout the year, IDPs and affected host communities living in 9 regions in Somalia were provided with safe water.
Due to deteriorating drought conditions and need to build capacity within target communities to independently sustain WASH interventions, IOM continued to provide critical support for the operation and maintenance of water sources for more than the planned period. Throughout this time, IOM worked with local communities and authorities to transfer skills and build capacity towards local management of the water resources.

IOM Somalia stands firmly committed to the humanitarian principles that have inspired us for 65 years.”

Gerard Waite
Chief of Mission, IOM Somalia