MIGRANTS STORY
LIBYA – The end of the dream for Senegalese migrants

401 Senegalese men left their country for Libya with one goal: working in Tripoli, or going to Europe. Some stayed there a few months, others a few hours. All have been successfully helped evacuate from Libya by IOM with funding from the European Union (EU) and the Government of Norway, in February and March 2015 as violence escalates.

Ousmane is from Tambacounda region, South-East Senegal. He is 25 years old and accounts already for three past attempts to reach Italy. ‘I left because I had no job and no prospects in Tamba. My Senegalese friends live better than me in Italy, so why not me?’.

Ousmane and many others sold their cows, sheep, crops, or worked for a few years in Senegal to be able to pay the smugglers who led them closer to the European Eldorado. They left home overnight without telling their families, mostly opposed to the project. ‘It took me about 1 month to arrive in Tripoli via Agadez in Niger, for which I paid 850 US$. In the desert, we were crammed into 4x4 cars with up to 40 people; we saw buddies falling down and abandoned in the Sahara’ Ousmane reported. Once in Tripoli, he settled in shelters run by Libyans.

The Senegalese migrants improvise themselves bricklayer, tiler and laborer, to raise money and try to cross over the Mediterranean.

‘All our few belongings, money, phones, were seized’ added Abdoulaye, 28, another migrant who had passed through Algeria. ‘We were 400 Senegalese, and there were also Somalis, Eritreans, Gambians, Sudanese. We suffered from the promiscuity, insufficient food, lack of water, insults from Libyans and the constant fear’ Ousmane said.

‘I called my family once I arrived in Tripoli. My parents asked me to come back home but I stayed. I was obsessed with reaching Italy. But after spending more than 2 months in the Center, when I’ve been told we were offered the possibility to be repatriated, I was happy and relieved to soon be out from such nightmare’ he told.

IOM’s EU-funded project ‘Stabilizing at risk communities and enhancing migration management to enable smooth transition in Egypt Libya and Tunisia’, START, has invested nearly EUR 10 million in the region since 2012. The Norwegian government-funded project ‘Return and reintegration assistance for migrants stranded in Egypt and Libya’ started in December 2013 and has contributed NOK 4.1 million (EUR 478,000) to IOM return assistance from Libya and Egypt.
PREPAREDNESS TO RESPOND TO MIGRATION CRISSES

NIGERIA
IOM conducted a 15-day assessment mission in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad, the four affected countries in the Lake Chad region, between 23 January and 6 February 2015 to better understand the regional impact of the crisis and evaluate urgent needs and gaps. The objective of the mission was to evaluate the humanitarian consequences of the Boko Haram insurgency from a regional prospective.

According to the assessment mission, about one million people have been internally displaced in Nigeria’s North East, with over 200,000 reported displaced in neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

In order to respond to the need for accurate and up-to-date information regarding the movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of the current humanitarian crisis, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix Program has been implemented in close coordination with national authorities to reinforce local capacities to collect and disseminate data on IDPs.

INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT AND RISK ANALYSIS

MAURITANIA
IOM and Japan have signed in March an agreement to support border communities along Mauritania and Mali Border, through a project that will enhance border management and better protection of communities along this border.

The 24-month USD 3 M project ‘Enhancing the Collective Capacity for Managing Borders and for Protecting Border Communities between Mauritania and Mali’ seeks to facilitate greater cooperation and foster information sharing mechanisms between the governments of Mauritania and Mali.

MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND INTER-STATE DIALOGUE

ECOWAS
IOM supported the ECOWAS Travel Documents meeting from 24-26 February 2015 in Dakar, within the Immigration and Border Management component of the EU and ECOWAS-funded Project to Support Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa (FMM West Africa) and its Travel Document Harmonization activity.

The meeting focused on enhanced security features of the ECOWAS Biometric Identity Card; improved migration data exchange and advancement of free movement facilitation in the region. The three-day event brought together Heads of ECOWAS Member States’ Immigration and Consular Services; ECOWAS Trade, Customs, Industry and Free Movement Commissioner and Department officials; other government experts and international organizations, including IOM.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Ms. Carmela Godeau, Regional Director for West and Central Africa and M. Charles Kwenin, Senior Regional Advisor for Africa carried out a one week-mission to Sao Tomé and Principe and Equatorial Guinea from 7 to 14 March 2015. The visit aimed at identifying potential migration issues of mutual interest and priority for joint actions. In addition, the objective of the mission was to follow up on IOM membership of these two Central Africa countries.

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In March IOM facilitated a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling for selected border officials in Nouakchott.
It aimed at building the participants’ knowledge on the challenge of combating human trafficking and smuggling of migrants while providing them with specific tools to train other Border officials. The session addressed relevant key definitions, the understanding of specific vulnerabilities and explained how to identify victims of trafficking.

The activity was part of a 24-month EUR 2.3M project ‘Strengthening the border management in Mauritania – the involvement of the Gendarmerie’ funded by the European Union and was organized as part of a larger collaboration effort with GIZ that aims at creating a standard training package for the Border officials in Mauritania.

LABOUR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

TOGO
From 11 to 13 March 2015, IOM organized a training in Kpalime on Diaspora engagement strategy. Twenty-five members of the Togolese Interministerial Committee on Migration, including several ministries and members of the civil society, attended.

The training was implemented within the framework of the IOM Development Fund (IDF) funded project on “Renforcement de capacité pour une gestion stratégique des migrations au Togo et de la Diaspora Togolaise”. It aims at supporting the Government of Togo to develop a national migration and development policy to maximize the development potential of migration, including through the mobilization and engagement of its diaspora.

CAMEROON
IOM delivered a training on Diaspora engagement in Yaoundé, from 17 to 19 March, to 25 members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specifically the Directorate of Camerounais Abroad and other ministries involved in migration management. The training was organized within the framework of the IDF funded project on « Renforcement de l’implication de la diaspora Camerounaise en France/Belgique au niveau des services de santé et de l’enseignement supérieur ».

The project aims at assisting the Government of Cameroon to establish a system to support the temporary return of qualified nationals from France and Belgium to contribute to the national development.

SENEGAL
On 20 March, IOM supported the launch of a liaison office for Migration and Development in the framework of the Jappando project.

The project aimed to strengthen dialogue between migrants and local authorities, supportive tools for migrants’ economic projects, so as to improve their impact on local development in the region. A partnership with CONFESEN and the Association for entrepreneur women from Venetia in Italy has been set up to foster it.

IOM CONTRIBUTES TO THE PREVENTION OF EBOLA DISEASE SPREAD IN WEST AFRICA

In the context of the IOM Ebola response activities in the three most affected countries, Ms. Carmela Godeau, Regional Director for West and Central Africa, and M. Mohamed Abdiker, Director of Operations and Emergencies, visited Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia in January. The objective of the visits was to see the hard work underway and planned by the teams in the field, and to meet with senior leaders to reaffirm a mutual commitment to work effectively together on Ebola response.

SIERRA LEONE
Since the start of the ‘Health & Humanitarian Border Management: Lungi International Airport’ project in mid-November 2014, the IOM Border Management team ensured the effective monitoring of 30 000 Exit and Entry Health Screening at the airport.
IOM’s National Ebola Training Academy has trained more than 5,234 health care workers. Several mobile training courses on Infection Prevention and Control were held for airport personnel, and prison guards in Bo and Kenema districts.

Since 15 December, implementing partners, Medair and ACF, continue distributing emergency care kits in quarantined areas of Freetown.

In March, an IOM-led inter-agency team visited border-crossing points in Kambia, Kailahun and Pujehun districts, which border respectively Guinea and Liberia. The assessment aimed at understanding the movements of people across borders; identify needs of local communities, border officials and health authorities; and enhance health surveillance and the prevention of EVD transmission through targeted support.

**GUINEA**

To support the Government of Guinea to combat the Ebola Virus Disease, IOM is providing logistic support to Provincial Emergency Operation Centers (PEOC) nationwide. On 7 January IOM started distributing generators, protective supplies, and office supplies to PEOC in Coyah, Forecaiah, and Boffa.

From 5-13 January, IOM assessment team met with the PEOC Coordinators and team members from all 15 Centers and conducted a PEOC survey to identify gaps and challenges of PEOC operations. The survey results provided a guideline for building capacity of PEOCs and support the Government of Guinea to fully operationalize management and coordination of Ebola activities at the prefecture level. As of 3rd February, all office material and IT equipment have been delivered with and installed in 15 PEOCs.

In order to reinforce the capacity of the regional coordination, IOM continues to provide logistical support to new facilities, for a total of 20 Provincial Emergency Operations Centers.