To better facilitate refugee resettlement, as well as assisted voluntary return, to African countries through Addis Ababa, IOM, the United Nations Migration Agency, signed a cooperation agreement with Ethiopian Airlines on 22 September 2017. Addis Ababa Bole International Airport has become one of the major gateways to Africa and Ethiopian Airlines has taken on a major share of refugee resettlement international transportation. IOM Addis Ababa has facilitated the voluntary movement through the international airport, of 6,260 refugees in 2016 and 3,200 refugees in 2017.

This agreement will make it easier for refugees being resettled or migrants returning home through IOM's programmes to identify where they can find assistance at the airport terminal. Helpdesks will be clearly marked with the IOM and Ethiopian Airlines signs.

South Sudanese Refugees Relocated to Camps since September 2016 Top 100,000

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and IOM, the UN Migration Agency yesterday (21/09) announced that they had assisted the Government of Ethiopia in relocating to camps, more than 100,000 South Sudanese refugees who had, since September 2016, fled renewed conflict in the world’s youngest nation.

Since the eruption of the brutal conflict in South Sudan in December 2013, Ethiopia has received some 330,000 refugees, including more than 115,000 since the renewed violence in September 2016. Of these, some 30,000 arrived in July in Maiwut, Mathiang and Pagak in Upper Nile Region bordering Gambella. The remaining IGAD Member State, Eritrea, did not attend this training.

The story of Emebet - Returning from Sudan to Ethiopia

With two children and limited job opportunities, it was hard for Emebet and her family to make both ends meet in Sudan. Together, they decided to return to Ethiopia. The family has now a stable source of income and the children are back in school.