

IOM MAURITANIA

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Organisation Internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
L'organisme des Nations Unies chargé des migrations





IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

IOM inaugurates the last border post built with the financial help of the European Union

As part of a € 2.35 million project, funded by the European Union, a new border post on the border with Senegal was inaugurated at Lexeiba II. The ceremony took place on the 7th December, in the presence of the Director General of the Territorial Administration, the Wali of Trarza, the Hakem and the Mayor of Lexeiba II, the Chief of the Regional Police and the Representative of the European Union. In his speech, the Director General of the Territorial

Administration stated: *«Our Sahelian countries are facing several challenges such as the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and transnational crime. IOM and the EU are privileged partners in the migration management strategy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania»*. This new border post is the last of five that have been built under the Immigration and Border Management project which started off in January 2014 and will end in April 2017.

The aim of the project is to improve the management of migration flows in Mauritania through an enhanced border management and assistance to vulnerable migrants. *«IOM's work is to support the Government in strengthening border management in Mauritania, not to limit migration, but to facilitate it in an orderly and secure manner for both migrants, and for the population in general.»* recalled Anke Strauss, Head of Mission of IOM Mauritania.



Ambassador of Japan and IOM's Head of Mission with the Mauritanian authorities

The Ambassador of Japan attends the inauguration of the Fassala Nere border post.

In the presence of the Director of the Territorial Administration, the Regional Safety's Director, the Wali of Hodh Ech Chargui, the Mayor of Fassala Nere, the Head of Mission of IOM Mauritania, UNHCR and WFP, the Ambassador of Japan to Mauritania H.E. Hisatsugu Shimitzu attended the inauguration of the border post at Fassala Néré in southeastern Mauritania on the 22nd November 2016. This border post has been constructed under the project «Coordinated Border Management in

Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso» and is the expression of a collective will to improve the management of migration flows between Mauritania and Mali. It aims to ensure the population's security through a reinforced collaboration between the communities (the young in particular) and the local authorities of Doueinkara, Fassala Nere and Bassikounou. The substation is fully functional and equipped with hardware, especially computers, and supplied with water and

electricity through solar panels. Following this inauguration, a press conference was held in Nouakchott, during which the Ambassador of Japan stated that *«The funds granted by Japan constitute support for the efforts of Mauritania's Government to deal with the challenges of irregular migration and terrorism».*



Handshake between the Ambassador of Japan and the Wali of Hodh Chargui

RADIO SKETCHES

In autumn 2016, more than 120 young people participated in discussion forums in Nouakchott, Aioun and Bassikounou on topics such as irregular migration, trafficking in human beings, organized crime, extremism and radicalization in order to produce radio spots afterwards.

The 36 selected young actors came together to share their ideas and develop scripts. They took courses in vocal development, dialogue and artistic creation, and produced sketches in five different languages (French, Hassanya, Pulaar, Soninke and Wolof). *«These radio sketching workshops are a new way*

to develop awareness-raising activities on border management in the Wilaya of Hodh El Gharbi» said the Aioun youth group. Funded by the Government of Japan, they will be broadcast on different radio channels to raise public awareness. The young actors of Bassikounou and Aioun had the opportunity

to present their sketches on the topic of radicalism and extremism during the inauguration of Fassala Nere's border post and on the subject of irregular migration during the crisis management simulation exercise in Gogui.



TRAINING ON FIRST AID AND HUMANITARIAN MANAGEMENT IN NIORO DU SAHEL

Learning how to save a life?

This was the challenge faced by the 60 participants in the first-aid training, delivered by four civil protection trainers from Mauritania and Mali, held in Nioro du Sahel, Mali. For the first time, policemen, members of youth associations and representatives of local communities from the border areas between Mauritania and Mali were brought together to learn how to treat wounds, how to respond quickly and effectively to a respiratory arrest or how to help a victim of a snake bite. In addition, they benefitted from a training by an IOM expert on Humanitarian Border Management to initiate

them to sudden crisis management, involving massive displacements to the border. Funded by the Government of Japan and

initiated by IOM Mauritania and IOM Mali, these activities reflect a fruitful collaboration between the two countries.



BORDER MANAGEMENT TRAINING / DOCUMENTARY FRAUD / ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN KAYES

As part of the project «Improving the Collective Capacity for Border Management and Protecting Border Communities between Mauritania and Mali», a training course on border management and procedures, operational controls, documentary fraud and the fight against trafficking in human beings was held in Kayes from 3 to 13 October

2016. During this fourth bilateral training, given by two Mauritanian and two Malian trainers, 10 Mauritanian police officers and 10 Malian police officers had the opportunity to reinforce their skills in the above mentioned areas, but also to exchange and to establish connections for enhanced border security.



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HUMANITARIAN AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT SIMULATION EXERCISE

Within the framework of the project «Improving Collective Capacity for Border Management and Protecting Border Communities between Mauritania and Mali», funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by IOM, two simulation exercises in humanitarian management and border crisis took place the 15th and 16th December 2016 in Gogui, on the border between Mauritania and Mali.

These exercises, organized by IOM Mauritania and IOM Mali, involved local authorities, security and rescue forces, relevant ministries and technical departments from the border areas between Mauritania and Mali, as well as 120 people from the populations of Gogui Zemmal (Mauritania) and 120 people from the populations of Goguil (Mali).

The set-up was the following: a fake village attacked by an armed group, 240 extras, shot and stab wounded, vulnerable and unaccompanied children, panicked populations fleeing towards the border to seek help. *«This type of exercise is very important for us because it tests our ability to manage a crisis and serves to improve our security arrangements,»*

said M’Hamada Meimou, Director of the Territorial Administration. This innovative exercise, proposed by the participants of the Humanitarian Management and Border Crisis Workshop, was designed to test operational procedures for crisis management at the borders and to improve them after evaluation.

COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Four training courses on combating trafficking in human beings in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou.

IOM organized a series of training courses on combating trafficking in human beings in Mauritania. The first two training courses, for police and gendarmes, were held in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. They included presentations, debates, games and reflections to understand trafficking in persons and techniques of identification and assistance to victims. *«I learned identification techniques that I did not know before and this will help me in my field work. For example, I understood the importance of body language in recognizing a potential victim or a trafficker,»* said one gendarme. The officers also expressed their satisfaction of the training and its importance in their work: *«It's a very relevant training, especially for us who work in the Valley where*

we are confronted on a daily basis with this kind of situations».

Subsequently, 31 magistrates and registrars were trained, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR). *“We must fight against the source of trafficking in human beings, protect the victims and incriminate the guilty»* said the Ministry of Justice's General Secretary, Mohamed Lemine Ould Sidi Baba. He highlighted the country's efforts to combat trafficking, namely by ratifying all human rights conventions, setting up institutions and adopting laws that penalize trafficking in human beings.



During the four days of training, participants from all over Mauritania discussed the legal frameworks, the different case studies and the issue of protection of victims. The training also provided an opportunity to discuss local specificities and to integrate them into national and international perspectives. Two German experts, Public Prosecutor Peter Holzwarth and Defense Counsel Dr. Irmela Vogel shared their experience on the handling of cases of human trafficking in Germany.

Lastly, 10 journalists participated in a training on trafficking, organized by a Moroccan journalist, which aimed to improve the participants' knowledge on migration, protection of human rights and migrants' rights, as well as journalistic techniques, advocacy and processing of sensitive data. *«When I started the training on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, I did not know what it*

was, nor the difference between the two. Today, as a journalist, I can write on the subject respecting the migrants' rights and victims of trafficking» said Aliye, one of the participating journalists.

These trainings were the last in a series of six trainings organized in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO and UNHCHR. They were implemented under the project «Understanding and Combating Trafficking in Mauritania», funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, which contributes to raising awareness of trafficking in human beings and to improving the capacity of Mauritania's Government to protect victims, to prevent and to prosecute perpetrators of trafficking.

During this year, IOM assisted 48 people who were introduced to the organization through various channels.





Presentation of certificates to IT training participants

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IT TRAINING

On the 30th October 2016, the 25 young migrants who had started the IT (Information and Technology) training in August were proud to receive their certificates in the presence of their families. Very motivated to learn more, they all asked to continue the courses organized in collaboration with the Catholic Mission.

«We are particularly grateful to our professor, who, despite his many

occupations, has agreed to train us and to follow us step by step, conscientiously and voluntarily until the end of our training» said one participant.

This training was part of a project to combat trafficking, funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. In fact, training and finding work for migrants reduces their risk of becoming victims of trafficking.



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Girls attentive during the literacy class

LITERACY TRAINING

Literacy training for two groups of 15 victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, was organized in collaboration with the Catholic Mission and funded by the Federal Republic of Germany.

These training courses enable these women to acquire basic knowledge in French but also specific such as teamwork in a multicultural

environment. It helps them to be aware of the importance of education.

«If I learn French, would I have a chance to find a job like you?» asked the youngest participant in literacy training to an IOM staff, curious and eager to enter the workforce.

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS AND DISTRIBUTION OF MEDICINE IN TEYARETT

On the 15th October 2016, IOM Mauritania and the NGO AES participated in the organization of the second edition of medical consultations for the vulnerable population of the outlying districts of Nouakchott as part of the campaign «Because we are all human».

Last August, over 700 people benefitted from medical consultations with a general practitioner, a pediatrician, an ophthalmologist or a dentist. In addition to the consultations, patients received medicine at the mobile pharmacy and children received school kits for the start of school, with the support of IOM, WHO and Mattel. The goal of the campaign «Because we are all human» is to raise vulnerable populations'

awareness of the risks of trafficking. Ousmane Bocar Thiam, president of the NGO AES explains: *«This operation helps to relieve needy families who have many difficulties in purchasing school supplies and in obtaining medicine.»* The campaign, which began two months before, is part of the project «Understanding and Combating Trafficking in Persons in Mauritania», funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. In

Mauritania, IOM also assists victims of trafficking through return to their countries of origin, reintegration, legal and psychosocial assistance. During her speech, Ms Anke Strauss, Head of Mission of IOM Mauritania, recalled that *«according to figures from the International Labor Organization, about 21 million people are victims of forced labor, exploited at work or sexually throughout the world».*



IOM LAUNCHES A REFERRAL SYSTEM FOR THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

Improve the intervention capacity of Mauritania to assist migrants in transit or vulnerable migrants through access to health, law and reintegration.

IOM organized the first round table on local capacity building in mid-December 2016 with the aim of creating a referral system for the protection of migrants. 30 persons, representing the government, UN agencies (UNICEF and UNHCR) and civil society organizations participated in the event. This group, chaired by IOM, will meet every two months. Its creation is an important step in coordinating services at the national level and in defining future actions for migrants in Mauritania. The creation of this national referral system is part of the project «Improving the intervention capacity of Mauritania to assist migrants in transit or vulnerable migrants through access to health, law and reintegration». *«The aim of the referral system is to improve the services offered to migrants in Mauritania by optimizing the synergies between the actors*



and the services but also to improve the support to the Mauritanian Government in the assistance to vulnerable migrants» said Christos Christodoulides, Project Manager. One of the tangible results of this round table is the creation of a migrants' guide (in 2017), specifying all services (health, law, psychosocial, advisory services) available to migrants and offered by the government, United Nations agencies or civil society actors in Mauritania and listing all useful contacts. The project, which was launched in December

2016, is funded by the European Union for an amount of € 1.2 million through the regional development and protection program. Its purpose is to strengthen the Government's capacity to address the specific needs of vulnerable migrants through the voluntary return and reintegration assistance and through the protection of unaccompanied minors studying in Mahadras (Koranic schools). The project will also provide training for civil society partners, the media and the government.

26 REFUGEES BENEFIT FROM RESETTLEMENT IN THE US, FRANCE AND CANADA

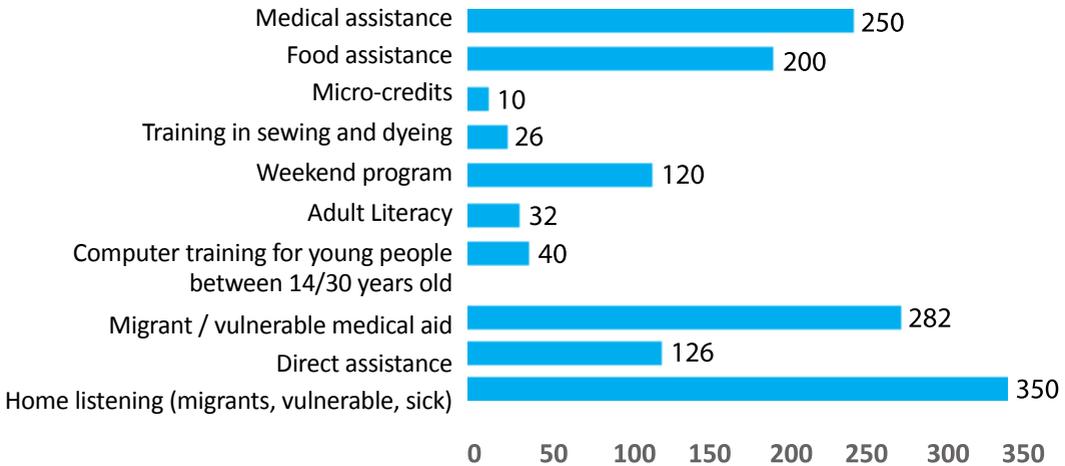
26 refugees left Mauritania on the 28th October 2016 to different third countries (US, France and Canada), under the operational leadership of IOM. Of Senegalese, Cameroonian, Congolese, Rwandan or Gambian origin, they were victims of persecution in their country of origin or had been trafficked and ended up seeking refuge in Mauritania.

One of them, Jonathan, was born albino and had experienced oppression since his childhood. Professor and writer, he

dreams of publishing his three books in the United States.

The USRAP program, funded by the Government of the United States, provides assistance to refugees so that they can be resettled in a sustainable manner. Its resettlement process involved many actors, such as UNHCR, the US Embassy, the US Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Refugee Population and Migration as well as IOM.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE CHOSEN

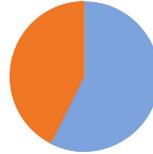


AVRR 2016 BALANCE SHEET

RETURNS FROM
MAURITANIA

62

28
MEN



34
WOMEN

Representation of beneficiaries by sex

THE MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE



IVORY COAST



SIERRA LEONE



DRC

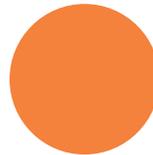


CAMEROON

RETURNS TO
MAURITANIA

10

10
MEN



0
WOMEN

Representation of beneficiaries by sex

THE MAIN COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION BY ORDER OF SIGNIFICANCE



SWITZERLAND



BELGIUM



NORWAY



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FIRST MICRO-COLLECTIVE REINTEGRATION FOR 14 IVORIAN BENEFICIARIES

Before flying to Abidjan from Nouakchott, the 14 Ivorians shared the relief and happiness of returning home even if the emotion was tangible. One of them expressed it in these terms: *«Separations, even the most desired, have their melancholy.»* Most of the beneficiaries who came to Mauritania on their way to Europe or to seek a better life in Mauritania decided to return home after several years. Some spoke of the hell they have lived on the road to Europe and other of the labor and peace opportunities that Mauritania offered them

when the war broke out in their home countries. *«I really have a heavy heart because Mauritania has done me a favor. It is thanks to Mauritania that I have found peace, otherwise I don't know what I would have become»* said one beneficiary. Micro-collective reintegration, co-financed by the European Union and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, is being tested for the first time in Mauritania. This concept involves the community upon return so that the returnee, who may be subject to a potentially

difficult reintegration after many years abroad, is guided in his reintegration. The beneficiary receives vocational guidance sessions and then, according to his /her needs, training and financial support for the project or professional activity he/she wishes to develop. The beneficiaries rejoiced above all to find their families again, that they have missed during all these years, just as much as the Ivorian atmosphere: *«I am delighted to return because it's my country, it's really good when we are at home.»*



MOHAMMED

I left Syria in 2011, two months after the start of the war. I lived in Al-Hajar al-Aswad, on the outskirts of Damascus, the capital. We went to live in Lebanon with my family; I found a job as a mechanic for offset printers in a book printing business. I was in Lebanon for a few months when the company decided to open a branch in Mauritania and sent me here.

It was not my choice to relocate. Last year, they decided to close the company.

I lost my job and I never received the allowances for housing and health insurance that management had promised me. My profession is very specific and I have not found any work. In Mauritania, there are only two offset printers in the whole country. Before losing my job, I loved my life in Mauritania, I had everything. Seven months ago, I opened a small restaurant in a garage to earn some money. Some friends have lent me money but I have not yet been able to repay them and they are getting impatient.

Opening this restaurant was not my dream but I had no choice, we have to

i am a migrant



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eat, I have to feed my children. I have six children who are 16, 14, 10, 8, 5 and 3 years old. My 8 year old son fell off the roof once because he was playing alone up there.

My wife and I work from 8am until midnight, seven days a week. We do not have time to take care of our children and we almost do not see them during the week because they sleep when we go home. They stay alone at home, eat bread with laughing cow (cheese spread). They have forgotten the taste of fruits or the pleasure of playing outside.

My children have not been to school for the last two years. After several requests,

UNHCR has finally started paying tuition fees since this summer. For the past four months, I have been unable to pay my rent and I am facing threats of eviction. I had to sell everything in my apartment to eat for a few weeks. There is nothing left in the apartment, nowhere to sleep or sit, just mats and a TV for the kids. I defy you to come to my house and stay there for ten minutes. My friends say there is a lack of oxygen. Since 2011, I have not seen my parents, my brothers, nor my sisters. For a year now, I have not talked to those who stayed in Syria because there is no internet connection there. I miss the daily gatherings with the family, the culture of my country too. We never thought of going to another country because we need visas everywhere. My wife and some of my children do not even have a valid passport. We can't leave Mauritania. I do not see any future here and we can't continue to live like that. My dream would be that my children go to a good school and my wife can stay at home and take care of them.

IOM promotes synergy and collaboration between all civil society actors, governmental and international agencies providing direct assistance to migrants.

IOM also promotes inter-sectoral coordination for migrants through the creation of various mechanisms, including the round table «Protection of human beings in Mauritania» to coordinate and assist the most vulnerable migrants.

HIV / AIDS AWARENESS SESSION

A training on HIV/AIDS in partnership with the Organization of Migrants of Nouadhibou (OMN) took place in Nouadhibou the 20th and 21st December 2016.

The 25 participants expressed their satisfaction with this 2-day training because of the open atmosphere and the vivid and participatory debate.

A case was related of a Cameroonian lady who had been arrested by the police and threatened with expulsion because she was in the possession of a condom. This woman was released thanks to OMN who quickly informed the Wali. Indeed there is no law in Mauritania to arrest someone because he/she is in the possession of a condom. On the contrary, they are on free sale so that everyone is able to protect themselves. Also the screening for HIV/AIDS is free, anonymous and

voluntary. It is possible in three antennas in Nouadhibou, namely in the Polyclinic of Cansado, in the Moughataa center and in CHNDB (Spanish hospital).





AVRR PROGRAM, RESETTLEMENT OF 2 SYRIAN FAMILIES TO FINLAND

IOM, in collaboration with UNHCR, facilitated the resettlement of two families from Syria who left Mauritania to settle in Finland.

These twelve people, mainly children and women, were Syrian refugees in Mauritania and will now be able to start a new life in peace in their new host country.

IOM strongly believes that orderly migration benefits both migrants and host and departure societies.



Célébration pour la journée internationale des Migrants et le 65ème anniversaire de l'OIM

الاحتفال باليوم العالمي للمهاجرين والذكرى الـ 65 لمنظمة الهجرة الدولية

المتحف الوطني - نواكشوط، 14 ديسمبر 2016 / 2016 Musée National - Nouakchott, le 14 décembre 2016

En partenariat avec
**INSTITUT
FRANCAIS**
MAURITANIE



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Little magician in the «Migrant Got Talent» contest

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY AND 65 YEARS OF IOM

«To show diversity is to remind us that migrants are not just a security or economic issue, but that they are, through what they bring and convey, the source of multiple enrichment, sharing of values and For the benefit of all and bring their knowledge and skills to the countries where they

pass» said Anke Strauss at the International Migrants Day celebrations, the 14 December in Nouakchott.

On this occasion, groups of artists participated in a contest «Migrant Got Talent» and shared with an enthusiastic audience musical performances, dance and even magic.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

IOM also thanks the French Institute of Mauritania for its valuable technical support and the National Museum for the loan of its premises.

For more information on IOM projects in Mauritania, contact us:

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This newsletter is a publication of the mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Mauritania to inform the public about its projects in Mauritania.

Head of Mission IOM Mauritania
Anke STRAUSS



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المنظمة الدولية للهجرة
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