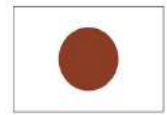




International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
 المنظمة الدولية للهجرة



From
 the People of Japan

Countering irregular migration, organized crime and terrorism in Mauritania

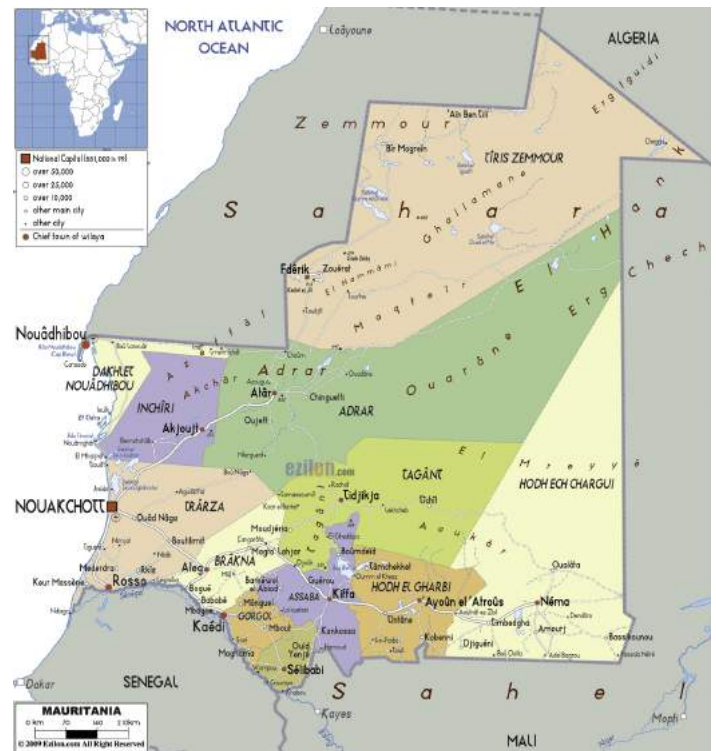
The Sahel has been a pipeline for smuggling and trafficking for hundreds of years, with organised crime and migration following the same traditional routes. Growing instability has led to an increase in illicit activities that span porous borders in the region. This instability has allowed trade in drugs, counterfeit products, migrants and arms to flourish in the trans-Sahel region (*The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Policy Brief May 2015*). This illicit, yet lucrative, trade significantly impacts the stability of countries throughout the Maghreb and Sahel, financing conflicts and strengthening terrorist groups, including the Islamic State, AQIM and Boko Haram.

The traditional trade routes traverse Mauritania's barren and largely uninhabited countryside. With only about 50 border posts stretching across more than 5,800 km of land and sea frontier, border control is a significant challenge for which the government has limited capacity. Mauritania's porous borders and uninhabited spaces make it a perfect retreat for organized crime networks. These criminal networks prey on desperate individuals hoping to migrate to other areas for better opportunities. This has resulted in an increase in reported human trafficking cases.

In order to erase the scourge of terrorism and illicit trafficking in the region, its sources of support and funding must urgently be understood and disrupted. But to do this, Mauritanian security officials must have the tools and the knowledge necessary to address this continuing and growing security threat. The project, **“Reinforcement of the capacity to deal with irregular migration, organized crime and terrorism in Mauritania”** funded by the Government of Japan, addresses this significant information gap, allowing border control and security officials to have a clear and comprehensive view of the threat and access reliable, accurate information.

Implementation Period
31 May 2016 – 30 May 2017

Budget
\$500,000 USD



As the leading international organization for migration, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants, to encourage social and economic development through migration and to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management. Areas of work include border management, conflict prevention, community stabilisation, migration and development and counter trafficking. These activities take the form of direct assistance, capacity building and information sharing as well as awareness-raising. IOM's central objective is to improve and develop global, regional and country level responses to protect and assist migrants in need and to support governments to reinforce their migration management capacities.



PROJECT SUMMARY

This project will reinforce the capacity of the Government of Mauritania, in particular the Ministry of Interior and Decentralisation (MIDEC), to understand and address irregular migration, radicalization of migrants, and links to organized crime and terrorism, while protecting its territory and citizens through strengthened collaboration with national private sector, youth groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Objective

To reinforce the capacity of the Mauritanian Government, and in particular the MIDEC, to understand and deal with irregular migration and its links to organized crime and terrorism.

The Project consists of two components with a specific outcome, namely:

Component 1: Establishment of a reliable knowledge base on the phenomena of irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking, including their possible link to financing terrorism and cross border criminal networks

- In-depth study on the phenomena of irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking, and their possible link to financing terrorism ;
- Collection of information on "radicalization of migration" ;
- Organization of a conference with Police, Gendarmerie and Judiciary on the findings of these studies.

Component 2: Reinforcement of capacity of the Government of Mauritania to identify and respond to terrorist threats and trafficking, smuggling and other cross-border crimes

- Establishment of Specialized Capacity of the police, including training of trainers ;
- Establishment of sound profiling and referral mechanism to enhance inter-agency cooperation to counter terrorism, irregular migration, trafficking, smuggling and other cross-border crimes ;
- Establishment of a strengthened collaboration with national private sector, youth groups and NGOs to disseminate information to prevent radicalization as well as terrorist activities, irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling in order to protect its citizens and territory.

The activities of this project fall in line with the UN Strategy and is also supported by the concerned governments, who met within the G5 Sahel Forum, to discuss regional border management cooperation in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in May 2014. The implementation of all the activities under this project will be carried out in close coordination with the respective governmental agencies responsible for the border management, particularly the MIDEC, and for the collaboration with the network of youth groups, particularly the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

This project is funded by the Government of Japan:



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