



IOM MAURITANIA



A view of the PK55 border crossing point located north of the coastal city of Nouadhibou.

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IOM opens four new border posts in Southern Mauritania

On March 11, 2016, IOM inaugurated four new border posts in Southern Mauritania as part of the activities of the project **“Strengthening migration management in Mauritania through a better border management strategy and assistance to irregular migrants”** funded by the European Union.

The new border posts of Sagné, Hammod, El Melgué and Tenaha built by IOM Mauritania were

commissioned in the presence of guests including the Deputy Governor of the Gorgol region, representatives from the Mauritanian Gendarmerie, the European Union Delegation in Mauritania, IOM staff, as well as students and families from surrounding areas.

These four border posts will greatly contribute to enhancing Mauritania’s migration and border management capacities.

Because of its geographical position, the porosity of its borders, and bilateral agreements on exemption of visa requirements, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, like most West African countries is faced with increased migration flows which affect not only the migrants, but their countries of origin, their transit and destination countries, both positively and negatively.

Photos: ©IOM/B. Malum 2016

With funding from the European Union:



The new border posts of Sagne, El Melgue, Hammod and Tenaha will strengthen the Mauritanian government’s migration and border management capacity as well as contribute to increasing security for residents in those towns.





The construction of the border posts is part of a 34-month project funded by the European Union and implemented by IOM Mauritania in direct collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralisation (MIDEC) and for the benefit of the Mauritanian Gendarmerie. The project aims to strengthen management of migratory flows in Mauritania through better border control and assistance to irregular migrants in Mauritania. Below is a picture of the newly constructed border post of El Melgue. The new border posts are fully equipped with solar panels and a generator to ensure continuous work even during power outages.



IOM trains Mauritanian journalists on how to report on migration and trafficking



Nouakchott, Mauritania, March 2016 - IOM Nouakchott Chief of Mission Anke STRAUSS introduces IOM's work in Mauritania to journalists attending the first training workshop organized by IOM to strengthen the knowledge and reporting capacities of Mauritanian journalists on migration-related issues. ©IOM/M. Boyd 2016

Journalists and the media have focused the world's attention on the plight of migrants, refugees and victims of trafficking in persons around the globe. It is because of the key role the media play in educating citizens about migration issues that journalists are at the heart of the project **"Understanding and addressing trafficking in persons in Mauritania"** implemented by IOM Nouakchott with funding from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The 12-month phase aims at increasing awareness in local communities of the dangers and effects of trafficking in persons.

It also includes capacity-building components for the benefit of journalists, border officials and the judiciary; and providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking.

Findings from a study on trafficking in persons conducted as part of a previous phase of the project revealed an information gap on the issue of trafficking in persons in Mauritania. As a result, media outlets did not adequately report on the issue. The study further revealed that Mauritians were unaware of the country's legal frameworks for combating trafficking in persons, such as the 2003 anti-trafficking law.

The training workshops organized by IOM in cooperation with UN partners in Mauritania, namely the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), are designed to fill this gap and will give Mauritanian journalists a better grasp of the legal

context against trafficking in persons to encourage accurate reporting and to empower civil society actors to take action against the phenomenon.

The workshops span the entire duration of the project (until February 2017) and are divided into two parts: the first part - which is ongoing - focuses on sensitising Mauritanian journalists on migration, migrants' rights and migrant's protection so journalists have a better understanding of the challenges faced by migrants and the legal recommendations to address them. The second part, scheduled to start in September, will invite journalists develop writing skills by participating in practical workshops.

Further activities are scheduled as part of the project' sensitization efforts, including the development of a sensitization campaign, the development of a comic strip cartoon on human trafficking in Mauritania and the organization of training workshops for border and judiciary officials.

With funding from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany:



IOM builds new slaughter facility in the M'Béra Refugees Camp

The M'bera Refugee Camp finally has its own operational slaughterhouse. The hygiene in the camp and the refugees' health will greatly benefit from this installation, which has been built and equipped thanks to funding from the Government of the United States. The inauguration of the slaughterhouse took place on Thursday, 26 March 2016 in the presence of the Hakem of Bassikounou, the inspector from the Ministry for Cattle Farming, humanitarian partners and members from the butchers association.



The new slaughter facility will contribute to increasing hygiene standards as well as refugees' health in Southeastern Mauritania. ©IOM 2016

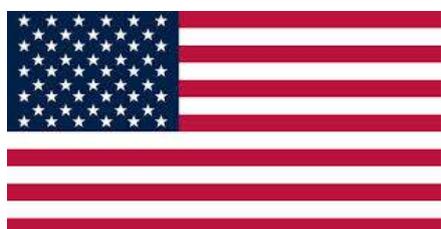
IOM is present in the region through a project aimed at combating food insecurity and increasing livelihood opportunities for the Malian refugees who have settled in Southeast Mauritania since 2012, as well as the local communities hosting them. Cattle-breeding and

livestock farming are some of the main sources of food for the refugees and the local residents. However, the unsanitary conditions in which slaughtering practices take place increases the chances of the spread of bacteria and puts both cattle and residents at risk of diseases such as dysentery.

The new slaughter facility includes a slaughterhouse equipped with a water supply and a sewage drainage system, as well as essential slaughtering tools and a dumpster to dispose of animal excrement and waste. It will contribute to increasing the hygiene and health

conditions of slaughtering practices that are more frequent in the camp. The butchers who manage the slaughterhouse will be trained and supervised by a representative of the Ministry for Cattle Farming to ensure the respect of hygiene standards during the slaughtering process.

With funding from the Government of the United States of America:



IOM, humanitarian partners and government authorities inaugurate the new slaughter facility in M'bera. ©IOM 2016



IMMIGRATION

and Border Management (IBM)

in Mauritania and in the Sahel



Since the opening of the mission in 2006, IOM Mauritania has implemented Technical Cooperation (TC) projects including Immigration and Border Management (IBM) components. IOM Nouakchott's IBM activities have been directed at helping the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, as well as other Sahel states, create policy, administrative and operational structures, and systems to adequately respond to the various migration challenges faced by Mauritania and its Sahel neighbors. These activities include, among other things, the construction and rehabilitation of border posts, the training of border officials and the strengthening of bilateral and regional cooperation through training workshops aimed at encouraging humanitarian border management practices.

N





Left: Police officers take part in a border management training session organised by IOM with funding from the European Union.

Down: A Mauritanian police officer works on a data collection spreadsheet designed by IOM in partnership with the Mauritanian police to assist officers in collecting key information on migrants and travellers at Mauritania's borders.

Photo credits: © IOM

Left: IOM staff visit the construction site of the new Fassala-Néré border post built by IOM with funding from the Government of Japan. Photo credits: © IOM/A. Bee 2016

Operational Assistance

The Sahel represents one of the most unpredictable and volatile regions in Africa today. States in the Sahel, including the Islamic Republic of Mauritania are not sufficiently equipped to effectively control their borders, ensure human security as well as prevent and respond to the various security threats the region is prone to. It is in this context and, in the light of its mandate to assist states in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, that IOM works to strengthen the Mauritanian and the regional Sahel migration and border management capacities. This translates in part into the construction of border posts along Mauritania's borders with Mali and Senegal.

With only 47 land border posts to cover more than 5,000 kilometres of land borders and 800 kilometres of coastline, border control and security management is a significant task for which the Mauritanian government is under-equipped.

To strengthen the Mauritanian government's border management efforts,



IOM has, with funding from its partners, constructed border posts along Mauritania's southern border. Four border posts have been constructed in Sagné, Hamoud, El Melgué and Tenaha with funding from the European Union (see page 2 for more information) and one, constructed with funding from the IOM Development Fund (IDF) was recently commissioned in Gogui on the Mauritania – Mali border. These new border posts not only increase the capacity of Mauritanian security officials to manage the flow of migration in those areas, but they also provide security for border communities.

The construction of two additional border posts in

[Continues on the next page](#)

Lexeiba II (under EU funding) and Fassala Néré (with funding from the Government of Japan) is under way to add to the existing Mauritanian border management infrastructure.

Training

In addition to strengthening operational capacities, IOM helps Mauritania by training immigration and border police officials.

Through several national and regional projects, IOM has facilitated training workshops for more than 200 immigration and border officers in Mauritania with a global aim to contribute to better border management in Mauritania and in the Sahel.

Under the EU-funded project **“Strengthening migration management in Mauritania through a better border management strategy and assistance to irregular migrants”** (January 2014 - October 2016), IOM Nouakchott has conducted several training



As part of the project “Enhancing the Collective Capacity for Managing Border and for Protecting Border Communities between Mauritania and Mali”, IOM trains police officers from both countries on migration data collection to strengthen the two countries’s operational border management capacity. Better information the flow of people at the borders will allow a better response and assistance to victims trafficking and smuggling.
© IOM/M. Boyd 2016

workshops for border officials stationed at Mauritania’s borders including airport police officers and border officials at border posts along Mauritania’s Southern border with Mali and Senegal, and in Nouadhibou.

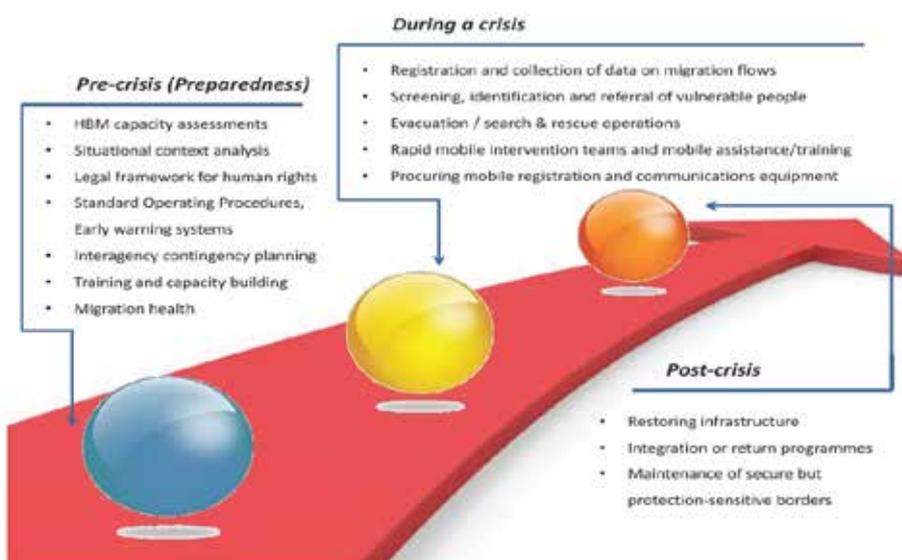
These training sessions are part of the specialized border management

curriculum and have focused on humanitarian border management, the essential IT skills required at border posts, and the detection of fraudulent documents, among other things.

In parallel, IOM Mauritania has started in Aioun el-Atrouss from 11 to 21 April 2016 the first in a series of

several humanitarian border management training workshops for Mauritanian and Malian immigration and police officers under the Japan-funded project **“Enhancing the Collective Capacity for Managing Border and for Protecting Border Communities between Mauritania and Mali”**. This project particularly targets the improvement of the security of the vulnerable border area between Mauritania and Mali by enhancing the two countries’ collective capacity in border management.

“Our approach in this project is to create pairs of trainers (one from Mauritania and one from Mali) who will conduct training sessions in the two countries and ensure the sustainability of the initiative, even after the end of the project”, explains Tomoko



The three stages of intervention under IOM’s humanitarian border management program.



A view of the Tenaha border post built by IOM with funding from the European Union. All the border posts constructed by IOM are equipped with solar panels to complement grid electric power as well as a generator to prevent loss of information during power shortages in the area of the border post. © IOM/B. Malum 2016

Mauritania Chief of Mission, Anke Strauss.

Regional Cooperation

IOM is committed to strengthening regional security cooperation by encouraging a regional approach to border management through close partnership with governmental counterparts.

Conscious that border management is essentially an international endeavour, IOM appeals to Sahel countries to partake in the common goals and objectives linked to better migration management for the benefit of all.

The construction of juxtaposed border crossings and the establishment of computer systems (as is the case with Gogui and Gogui Zamal under IDF funding) that allow the exchange of operational information are some of IOM's initiatives to enhance border management efforts at the regional level.

Sato, Project Manager for IOM Nouakchott. *“Based on the harmonized strategies, this project will contribute to the overall security in the border area by achieving the stronger bilateral coordination and information sharing mechanisms between the Border Polices of Mauritania and Mali, the improved performance of the Border Police officials and the active participation of local communities in the protection of security of the border area”*, she added.

In Mauritania, the train-

ing assistance provided by IOM is anchored in the existing Training Strategy of National Police of Mauritania developed in 2013. In Mali, IOM supports the development of the capacity building strategy for the Border Police.

Under this project, IOM is planning to cover the delivery of the national training modules to 150 Mauritanian Border Police officials and 130 Malian Border Police officials. This will have a great synergy along with the support for the delivery of the same

training modules to representatives from the National School of Police (in Mauritania) and officers in charge of border management, including the ones stationed at the border posts with Mali, under other IOM project funded by the EU.

“We are careful to create synergies and complementarity between IOM projects and with other partners working on border security in order to use our resources more efficiently and avoid the duplication of activities”, said IOM

IOM's current immigration and border management projects in Mauritania are separately funded by the European Union, the Government of Japan and the IOM Development Fund (IDF):



From
the People of Japan



Progress in Adala's integrated farm



In Adala, in Southeast Mauritania, IOM installed an integrated farm - with funding from the United States of America - as part of its activities to strengthen the livelihoods of residents affected by the influx of Malian refugees into Southeast Mauritania since the outbreak of violence in Northern Mali in 2012. © IOM/A. Bee 2016

According to statistics from the UNHCR, [more than 150.000 people](#) have been displaced since the beginning of fighting in Northern Mali in 2012. In the M'Bera Refugees Camp, in South-eastern Mauritania, more than 50.000 Malians have slowly gotten used to their new life.

The arrival of more than 50,000 Malian refugees with their herds nearly doubled the population of the department of Bas-sikounou, creating considerable pressure on the already fragile environment, as well as intense competition for firewood, water and pasture between the host communities and the refugees.

The establishment of an

integrated farm, the distribution of tree saplings, and the construction of a vaccination park and a slaughterhouse are some of the activities IOM is implementing to diversify the sources of livelihood of residents and increase food security in the region.

An integrated farm includes a chicken coop, a fish pond and a vegetable garden, and is designed to facilitate farm diversification with a minimum input of external resources: waste water from the fish pond is used for the irrigation of the vegetable garden, while vegetable waste and manure from the chicken coop and from local animals are reutilized as compost to fertilize the garden.

"We encourage residents, especially women, to take ownership of the integrated farm initiative and we have already seen good results. The growth of tomatoes, watermelon and millet plants is constant, and the marketing of chicken is successful in local markets around Adala, Adel Bagrou and Bas-sikounou", said Momme Ducros, the project manager for IOM Mauritania.

IOM has also worked in partnership with the United Nations Office for the

High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to establish mixed committees in order to strengthen community dialog between refugees, migrants and their host communities in the region. This is important because it offers an opportunity for the communities to discuss issues, thus limiting the chances of escalation of conflicts related to sharing land and natural resources, and improving their peaceful coexistence.

Other activities implemented by IOM to strengthen the resilience of residents in Southeast Mauritania include the distribution of nutritional supplements for livestock, the construction of a vaccination park and the organization of vaccination sessions for livestock, the distribution of solar lamps and tree saplings, the rehabilitation of a water supply facility and the establishment of mixed committees to strengthen dialogue between refugees and host communities.

With funding from the Government of the United States of America:



First AVRR beneficiaries return to their home countries



IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) initiative offers a humane, dignified and sustainable return option to vulnerable migrants stranded or blocked in their host country, and who are genuinely desiring to return home.

Since January 2016, IOM Mauritania has been piloting an AVRR program for migrants living in an irregular situation and/or blocked in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Mauritania's geographic location connecting Sub-

Saharan Africa, North Africa and Europe makes it a destination and transit country for migrants from across the world trying to reach Europe. Dwindling economic opportunities and volatile security often leads thousands of individuals to leave their countries in search for better living and work opportunities. When their journeys are met with difficulties, these individuals become stranded and struggle to integrate the transit country they find themselves in.

"The beneficiaries have been able to return to their country of origin under the AVRR programme", explained IOM Mauritania Chief of Mission Anke Strauss. *"We worked closely with the embassies of the beneficiaries' home countries to provide them with counselling and travel documents, and with IOM missions in those countries to set up adequate reintegration programs that will benefit both the beneficiaries and their communities",* she added.

Before their departure, the beneficiaries took part in an information session organised by IOM to assess their needs for psychosocial support and guide them in the implementation of their socio-economic reintegration of activities.

IOM Mauritania's AVRR activities are funded by the European Union, the Humanitarian Assistance for Stranded Migrants (HASM) fund and the Government of Spain.

With funding from the Humanitarian Assistance for Stranded Migrants (HASM) fund, the European Union and the Kingdom of Spain:



IOM constructs a border post along the Mauritania - Mali border



Malian police officers try out the new migration management software designed by IOM to better manage the flow of people at crossing points installed at the Gogui border post. © IOM 2016

Mauritania, Mali - April 27, 2016 - IOM opened on April 27, 2016 a new border post in Gogui, in Western Mali on the frontier with Mauritania. The construction of this border post was done under a USD 200,000 project funded by the IOM Development Fund to strengthen joint border management between the Republic of Mali and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania by constructing a border post in Gogui (on the Malian side), and conducting joint border management training workshops to Malian and Mauritanian border officials.

A 2013 IOM study “**Mali Crisis: A Migration Perspective**” revealed that smugglers and traffickers increasingly used the border area between the two countries to transport people, weapons, drugs or contraband goods towards North Africa and beyond (See also **the March 2013 UN Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali**).

This new border post will add to the existing border management infrastructure in Mali, and will contribute to consolidating security cooperation between Malian and

Mauritanian border patrol officers.

The Gogui border post is fully equipped with IT equipment including the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) designed by IOM which enables Malian immigration officers to capture biographic and biometric data in order to create a record of all migrants passing through the

border post.

IOM has also provided training and equipment to Malian border officials to reinforce operational procedures and standard practices on joint patrols along the Mali – Mauritania border.

Project funded by the IOM Development Fund



i am a migrant



1,605 km from home

Current Country:

Mauritania

Country of Origin:

Cote d'Ivoire

"You conceive & build up your life in one direction for thirty years & suddenly the war arrives & takes it all away from you."

Delphine

CHALLENGE

ANTI-MIGRANT HATE SPEECH

CELEBRATE

MIGRANTS

SHARE

MIGRANT STORIES

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The IOM Mauritania Newsletter is a quarterly publication by the IOM mission in Mauritania for the public and for updates on IOM's projects in Mauritania.

For more information on IOM's projects in Mauritania, please contact us at iomnouakchott@iom.int

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