



Director General of IOM meets with President of the Republic of Djibouti

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President of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh shaking hands with Ambassador William Lacy Swing during his visit to Djibouti © UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017



Minister of the Interior visits Geneva for the IOM Council

Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Hassan Omar Mohamed Bourhan © IOM 2017



From the left, Executive Secretary of the National Office for the Relief and Assistance of Refugees and Displaced Persons (ONARS) Mr. Houssein Hassan Darar, the Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan, the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Djibouti H.E. Mr. Hassan Omar Mohamed Bourhan, IOM Director General Ambassador William Lacy Swing, IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission Ms. Lalini Veerassamy and IOM Senior Regional Adviser Bernardo Mariano © IOM 2017

The Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Hassan Omar Mohamed Bourhan, visited Geneva, Switzerland to address IOM's 108th Council session on December 1st, 2017 on behalf of the President of the Republic of Djibouti, H.E. Mr. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh. In his speech, the Minister of the Interior discussed about the efforts exerted by the Djiboutian authorities to manage the flow of migrants transiting throughout Djibouti on their attempts to reach the Gulf countries for a better life.

His complete keynote address can be viewed on [UN TV](#).



IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission Ms. Lalini Veerassamy signing an agreement with the Minister of Health in Djibouti © H. Yi / IOM 2017



The Minister of Health in Djibouti and Doctors visit the mobile clinic © H. Yi / IOM 2017

IOM PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

IOM Djibouti signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health to provide assistance to migrants in all five regions in Djibouti through a mobile ambulance patrol, financed by the European Union under the *Better Migration Management* (BMM) project and Expertise France's project *Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in East Africa* (AMMi).

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, IOM Djibouti organized the launch of the Mobile Health Patrol program which will provide assistance to the migrants transiting the region on December 12th at PK51. This mobile patrol program will help to respond to the growing number of migrants who need medical assistance.

[Read the press release.](#)

LAUNCH OF STUDY ON STREET CHILDREN IN DJIBOUTI

The Government of the Republic of Djibouti has launched, for the first time, through the Ministry of Women and Family and in cooperation with IOM, a study on the situation of street children financed by the European Union. The study is an initial response to the precarious situation of these children. There is no statistical data on these children, although they are numerous and are believed to be increasing. These children also expose themselves to many risks, abuses and vulnerabilities. It is in this context that the study aims to know the numbers, socio-demographic characteristics and origins of street children. The study will culminate in the proposal of a national action plan for these children in Djibouti city as well as in the regions. This will enable the Government to take appropriate action in favour of these children and to uphold their rights.



A Steering Committee including governmental and non-governmental actors is closely monitoring the preparation of this study.

Unaccompanied migrant children walk on the streets of Djibouti-city © Muse Mohammed / IOM 2017

IOM'S RESPONSE TO HEALTH CASES IN NORTHERN DJIBOUTI

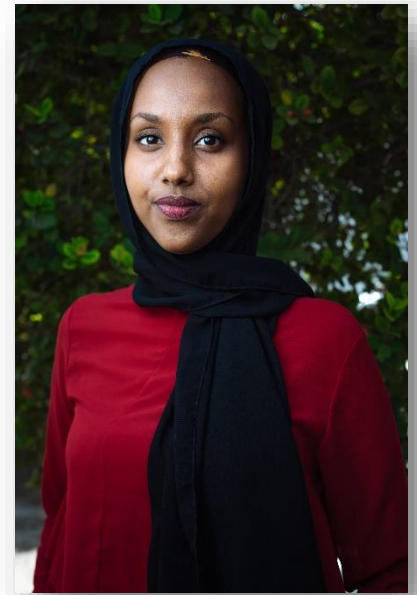
An outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) touched Djibouti's northern regions of Obock and Tadjourah at the end of September. Throughout the months of September and October, the Ministry of Health together with the IOM Djibouti medical team have treated over 100 migrants within the Migration Response Center (MRC). The Ministry of Health supported the medical team with 2 doctors, 2 nurses, and 11 hygiene personnel who were sent to Obock to treat migrants suffering from AWD.

Several awareness-raising activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health were also conducted in the MRC in Obock as well as in the wider Obock region on AWD prevention.



An awareness raising session in Fantaherou © OIM 2017

i am a migrant



« J'ai décidé de « rapatrier » mon bagage intellectuel, mon enthousiasme et mon ambition au pays d'origine...»

TRAINING FOR LOCAL MEDIA

In October, IOM Djibouti organized an information session with the national journals and newspapers in Djibouti (the newspaper La Nation and the *RTD - Journal Télévisé Djibouti*). The training session was designed to inform local journalists of the programs and activities of IOM worldwide, as well as provide insight into its activities in Djibouti.

Future training sessions are planned which will focus on specific thematic areas relevant to the mission in Djibouti.

Migrant Stories



© Muse Mohammed/ UN Migration Agency (IOM)

Alia*, a 15-year old girl from Wollo region in Ethiopia, was received at the MRC in December. It had been 18 days since she had left her home with her cousin who told her that she will get a job in Saudi Arabia. The cousin paid 25 000 birr to the smuggler for the whole trip and ended up with no money once arrived in Obock. They passed through Galafi, Yoboki, Lake Assal and Tadjourah.

“Once arrived at the beach, the Djiboutian army caught us and brought us to the Migration Response centre of IOM. After a discussion with the IOM team, we decided to return to Ethiopia” said Alia.

Obsa*, an Ethiopian migrant, trains on the beach *La Siesta* every morning. He came to Djibouti to look for work when he was a child. He spends his nights sleeping on the same beach. He now works as a dancer so that he can save enough money to bring back to his family in Ethiopia.

Many of unaccompanied migrant children can be found in the city of Djibouti. Working in odd and irregular jobs, these children live in precarious conditions hoping to make enough money to send home to their families.

Teya* an 18 year old woman from Amhara region in Ethiopia, decided to leave home to find a better life. Her family was poor and needed her to find a job elsewhere. She did not want to leave. Her sister financed the trip to Wahalimat with her savings and paid the smuggler around 30.000 Birr.

“From Wahalimat to Lake Assal, I walked 6 days” said Teya. From Lake Assal to Obock, the group took a car.

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals



IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission Ms. Lalini Veerassamy hands over the IOM Djibouti Strategy to the Minister of the Interior H.E. Mr. Hassan Omar Mohamed Bourhan © A. Walcott / IOM 2017

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY CELEBRATION

On December 18th, IOM Djibouti celebrated International Migrants Day with the launch of IOM Djibouti’s Country Strategy for 2017 - 2020. During the event, which took place at Institut Français and financed by the European Union under the AMMi project, three films were screened: Dem Dem, Wallah Je te Jure and a short film by IOM Djibouti on migration in Djibouti (which can be seen [here](#)). These screenings were part of the Global Migration Film Festival, launched by the IOM to feature films that capture the promise and challenges of migration for those who leave their homes in search of a better life and the unique contributions migrants make to their new communities.

On the same occasion, IOM’s newest app called the MigApp was launched. The app will offer a central and user-friendly application where migrants can, through their mobile phones, access available information and services relevant to their specific migration process.



Participants of Diaspora Day @Hani / La Nation Djibouti 2017



IOM staff speaking to the audience @Hani / La Nation Djibouti 2017

DIASPORA CONSULTATION DAY

In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the World Bank, a Diaspora Consultation Day was organized by IOM on December 21st. The aim was to strengthen the role played by Djiboutians living abroad in the promotion of Djibouti's socio-economic development. Exchanges between the Diaspora and the government were fruitful, with themes such as diaspora's encouragement and mobilization, the transfer of human capital, philanthropy and tourism being discussed. The ceremony saw the participation of the Minister of the Interior H.E. Hassan Omar Mohamed, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Mahamoud Youssouf Ali, IOM Representative Lalini Veerassamy and World Bank Representative Mr. Atou Seck.

IOM has once again demonstrated that migration and development are important topics for the country's progress. As a result, the place of the original Diaspora remains paramount to better contribute to the development of the country as in neighbouring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya). The recommendations, comments and suggestions of the Diaspora will establish a roadmap with a national strategy by 2025.

TRAINING ON MIGRATION DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING BETWEEN DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS

IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, organized on October 1st, a training on data collection and sharing between institutions participating in the training such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Women and Family, the Secretariat of State for Social Affairs, ADDS, DISED, the National Police, the National Army, the Gendarmerie, and the Coast Guard around the theme of better data management on regular and irregular migration. The training included statistical and administrative data on migration and the impact of data available in Djibouti to describe international flows and foreign-born populations. Mr. Michel Poulain and Ms. Anne Herm, two consultants organized a session on the reliability of many migration data. This training was part of the project entitled "Capacity building of the Government of Djibouti to better collect and analyse data and statistics on migration", financed by the IOM Development Fund.



Michel Poulain is a demographer from Belgium. He is specialized in international migration statistics and longevity studies. For the past three decades, he has contributed to the harmonization of international migration statistics at the level of the European Union (THESIM) and worldwide with the IOM.



Program staff from IOM Djibouti and Burundi participate in the training © A. Walcott / UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING HELD IN DJIBOUTI

IOM Djibouti hosted a project development training in French. IOM staff, Ludvik Girard and Innocent Abresse trained participants from Djibouti and Burundi on the essentials of project development and the developments of the second version of the IOM handbook.

INCREASED MIGRANT FLOWS TRANSITING THROUGH DJIBOUTI

With growing instability in the region, IOM Djibouti has continued to provide assistance to vulnerable migrants who are attempting to travel to and from Yemen. Boats from Obock carry migrants every day, in the hopes of finding better opportunities in the Gulf countries. With the assistance of IOM, RTE reporter Joan O'Sullivan and cameraman Magnus Kelly travelled to Djibouti, to speak to some of the migrants hoping to travel to war torn Yemen. [See RTE report](#)

AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES WITH IRREGULAR MIGRANTS IN DJIBOUTI

IOM and the National Union of Djiboutian Women (UNFD) organized on October 7th a skit to raise awareness about the risks linked to irregular Migration at the community development centre (CDC) of Arhiba, in the capital of Djibouti. The skit, financed by Expertise France, bears the title of "fatal disillusion" and has been interpreted by the Voice of the East in Afar language, language mostly spoken in the neighbourhood of Arhiba. This sketch was produced in April-May in the different interior regions of the country. The evening welcomed more than sixty inhabitants of Arhiba including migrant families.

In the late evening, the IOM Chief of Mission, and UNFD members held discussions with the director of the CDC and local elected officials in the premises of the Arhiba CDC. They have mentioned the success of the event and the importance of continuing to circulate messages on irregular migration. It was found that the music sessions captured the attention of everyone, including the youngest. The strong presence of migrants in this neighbourhood and the interest of setting up a listening cell in the CDC were discussed.



Participants of the evening © UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017

LAUNCH OF COAST GUARD POST IN KHOR ANGAR

The National Coast guard in collaboration with the Ministry of Equipment and Transportation and the support of IOM, opened a border post in the North of Djibouti, funded by the US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. The border post, inaugurated on December 17th, 2017, allows the National Coast guard to monitor mixed migration flows in the region of Khor Angar and nearby cities in northern Djibouti.



Representative from the United States cuts a ribbon to open the centre © A. Walcott / UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017



IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission Ms. Lalini Veerassamy with the Minister of Habitat in Djibouti, Mr. Moussa Mohamed Ahmed © UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2017

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF HOUSING, URBAN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

On November 12th, a courtesy visit to discuss the effects of environmental change on migration flows took place between the IOM representative and the Minister of Housing, Urban Planning and Environment. During the meeting, IOM activities taking place in island states on climate change adaptation and strategic support to reduce the risk of disasters were discussed. Migration remains high on the international agenda on climate change, being very much present in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third UN World Conference in 2015. The "Enquete zéro bidonville" was also discussed, as a large migrant population may be living in these areas.



IOM's launch of MigApp on International Migrants Day, for more [info](#)



IOM Djibouti Chief of Mission meeting with the Minister of Labour in Djibouti © L. Veerassamy / IOM 2017



Representatives from the Canadian company Olymel in visit to Djibouti ©H. Houssein / IOM 2017

PARTNERSHIP FORMED FOR LABOUR MIGRATION PROJECT IN CANADA

A meeting was held between the Minister of Labour, Administrative Reform Officer and the IOM Representative in Djibouti on overseas employment opportunities for young Djiboutian citizens as part of a labour migration program on October 25th.

Like many countries in Africa that promote migration and development, labour migration can be seen as a tool to achieve the objectives of the National Employment Strategy in Djibouti. Despite the inflection of labour migration flows following the economic crisis, labour markets in several host countries show labour needs at different skill levels, which will persist in the coming decades with aging demographics. The public employment services of the countries of origin are working to meet these needs.

As a result of the meeting, IOM Djibouti facilitated the dialogue between the ANEFIP and the agricultural Canadian company Olymel, interested to recruit foreigner’s workers. This meeting between the Minister and the IOM helped to better understand the immediate prospects for rapprochement with the province of Quebec in the field of labour migration. A pilot project has been launched which will match Djiboutians with employment opportunities in Canada. To this end, representatives from Olymel visited Djibouti in November to support the selection of candidates for the program.

DTM ACTIVITIES IN DJIBOUTI



Persons Observed			
<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Flow Monitoring Point</u>
1784	1650	891	Fantaherou (Obock-ville)
696	236	829	Orobor
310	348	471	Guelileh
497	514	207	Escale (Tadjourah- ville)



Livelihoods

Under the project “Livelihood Support to Eritrean Refugees for Self-Reliance and Local Integration in Djibouti City”, trainings and internships were offered to the beneficiaries. Equipment was also purchased for the beneficiaries’ businesses. An important meeting was held with officials to formalize businesses.

Immigration and Border Management

MIDAS program received new equipment to be installed at the three border posts of Loyada, Guelileh and Galafi. The construction of a new border post was finalized in Galafi and cameras together with solar equipment was purchased. In addition, solar equipment was purchased and installed at the post of Guelileh

Resettlement

In the month of October, IOM Djibouti facilitated the resettlement of 1 person to the USA and 1 to Canada. In November, 7 persons have been resettled to the USA and 36 to Canada. In December, 2 persons have been resettled to the USA and 28 to Canada.

Assisted Voluntary Returns

IOM Djibouti facilitated the voluntary return of 133 migrants in October, 60 in November and 219 migrants in December. In total, IOM Djibouti assisted 1696 migrants in 2017.

Mixed Migration

In December, IOM Djibouti evacuated 171 migrants from Yemen. These migrants participated in IOM’s AVR program to Ethiopia. In total, IOM Djibouti evacuated 748 migrants from Yemen in 2017.

Migration Health

In December 2017, among the 171 evacuated migrants, 12 migrants were assisted by the medical team in the MRC in Obock.

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