



المنظمة الدولية للهجرة
منظمة الأمم المتحدة للهجرة

Organisation internationale pour les migrations
L'organisme des Nations Unies chargé des migrations

IOM MAURITANIA

NEWSLETTER N°7 - February 2017 / May 2017





▲ A young woman participating to the caravan of sensitisation on countering violent extremism and irregular migration in the streets of Nouakchott

IOM IN 2 WORDS

Established in 1951,
IOM is the United Nations migration agency

165

Member States
and 8 Observers

401

Offices throughout
the world

9063

Staff members
95% on the Field

2

Liaison offices

New York
Addis-Ababa

2

Administrative
centers

Manilla
Panama

9

Regional Offices

Dakar
Nairobi
Cairo
Pretoria
San Jose
Buenos Aires
Bangkok
Brussels
Vienna

2400

Active projects

throughout the world with a budget
of over 1 billion \$

Headquarter

Geneva

THE MISSION OF IOM IN MAURITANIA

The host agreement between the International Organization for Migration and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania was signed on the 15th of July 2007 in Geneva and ratified on the 7th of July 2008.

Nouakchott based with a sub-office in Bassikounou, IOM Mauritania works closely with the Mauritanian Government and other partners to reinforce national migration management capacities and provide assistance to migrants in the country.

The mission is structured around three major axis of intervention:

MIGRANT ASSISTANCE

BORDER MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY STABILISATION

▼ ► Report about the surface and geographic situation of Mauritania



LOST BOYS SERIES

CHRIS'S HISTORY¹

When walking through the streets of cities in West Africa, we easily notice that a large number of children are moving without any presence of their parents. Some of them are working; others are begging and some are studying.

Usually, these children are coming from other countries in the region; they left their homes in search of a better education, a better future, of a dream.

In October, the UNHCR Mauritania contacted IOM Mauritania concerning a young Liberian man who was requiring help and assistance to return to his home country. «Chris was severely traumatised, he was breathing with difficulty and was speaking very little, when we met him» said Flavia Giordani, focal point for the protection of migrant children at IOM Mauritania. After a while, he began to open up, telling us his story and explaining his needs.

After the spread of Ebola caused the death of his father, and in search of better life conditions, Chris left Liberia with his mother, his brother and a man - a «friend» of his mother. Arriving in Mauritania, the man tried to convince his mother that prostitution was her best option to guarantee her children's education. Since she refused, she was living under constant threat and soon had to

escape, leaving her oldest child behind, hoping this man would send him to Europe.



I did not want to go to Europe. I watched on the BBC that many men have died in the Mediterranean. I do not want to die there.



«I was entrusted to a compatriot living in Nouakchott», Chris explained. He was only 12 years old, although very mature and intelligent.



Follow the journey of Chris in video
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYpqP22vSPw

He learned how to read in less than a month. He wants to study and aspires for a better life. «I've been living alone for a long time. I know how to take care of myself. I only need you to help me go to school. If you help me, I will become the president of Liberia and I will make it a better country» he said. The conditions in which Chris was living did not allow him to make his dreams come true. He found assistance from IOM to support him to go home and start a new life.

After searching for months, and with the collaboration of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), we found his mother. We knew she was living in another town of Mauritania. We were finally able to reunite them again. A few weeks after their reunion, Chris's mother gave birth to another child. IOM supported the whole family to return to Liberia and start a new life.

Since October 2016, IOM Mauritania has assisted six unaccompanied migrant children to return and access to education in their country of origin.

IOM provides the necessary support and assistance to their families so they can develop different types of businesses to help them reinforce their capacities and improve their living conditions. Most of them went to other countries in the region in the quest of Islamic education. Unfortunately, some got trapped

in difficult situations, completely different from what they were expecting.

IOM and its partners, in collaboration with the Government, support and help these children by guarantying their safe stay in Mauritania family tracing and the provision of help and assistance should they want to return to their country of origin.

JULIUS' HISTORY¹

« I knew I could not fulfil my dreams if I stayed in Sierra Leone. My family knew that as well as God. Mauritania is known for being a place where one can learn.

But it was not easy for a child without father, mother or any family member to receive him. You know, I had to do that, I had to go there and chase my dreams. My entire family depends on me; I'm the only one who can help them. I have to do my best to improve my life and make my mother happy. That was the wish of my father. His blessings are always with me.» And so is Julius' universe. He is 16 years old. He arrived in Mauritania with a member of his family to study and become Imam.

He comes from the suburbs of Waterloo, a city of Sierra Leone. His father wanted him to become a good Imam and build a solid education to secure his future. A future that was not possible in

Sierra Leone. A few months after his arrival in Mauritania, his father got sick and died soon after. Julius contacted IOM for support and assistance to return home. He arrived in Sierra Leone last December. He ob-



I am the oldest child, it is my responsibility to go home and take care of my family



tained the support for two years of schooling and his mother was assisted to develop a small business to satisfy her family needs.

Last March, an IOM Mauritania mission was sent



▲ Julius (on the left) with his mother and his brother

to visit them. Meeting his mother and seeing where he lives allowed IOM representatives to better understand Julius' motivations to embark on this journey. IOM work on assisting displaced children has considerably increased and developed, especially targeting unaccompanied ones.

The unaccompanied migrant children are children separated from their parents, not taken care of by an adult who is, by law or custom, responsible for them.

These children often travel long journeys and encounter very difficult life experiences. As a result, they become mature very early and develop strong decision-making abilities.

For these reasons, and in the scope of their assistance, IOM seeks to actively involve them in the decision-making process concerning their future, including the decision to continue their studies, work or combine both.

IOM is committed to protect unaccompanied migrant children rights and will always prioritise their best interest and well-being.

1. The name was changed

2. Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20th November 1989 (CRC), Article 1 - for the purpose of this Convention, a child means every human being under the age of eighteen years, unless the law applies to the child, the maturity is reached earlier.

SALMA, A YOUNG WOMAN VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING IN SAUDI ARABIA

Salma, mother of 2, has always lived in her village, Boeir Toress, 40 km from Tiguint on the Nouakchott-Rosso road. Her autodidact and resourceful husband used to go to Rosso to work without a contract for three to five months. He sometimes remained without any activity for months.

One day, a close relative of Salma, living in Nouakchott, came to the village bringing the great news. A recruiting agency was looking for maids to work in Saudi Arabia. The selected women would be lucky: one month of leave per year, a health insurance, and a return ticket. They would have the opportunity to attend the Hajj and Umrah (pilgrimage to Mecca) and will earn a monthly salary of 320 dollars.

In the beginning, Salma's husband was not satisfied and did not agree to the idea of her

departure. Although, driven by a strong desire to change her life and the one of her family, Salma managed to convince him. The agency took care of all travel formalities and Salma quickly was at a Saudi family's service both day and night.

For a year and a half, Salma suffered hunger, loneliness, physical violence, insults, and racism. She was beaten so severely that she lost the sensitivity of her right eye. Finally, when her employer agreed to give her a part of her salary, Salma did not hesitate to return home to to Mauritania.

Back in Nouakchott, it took time for Salma to build confidence and reconnect with her family who thanked God she was back alive. Salma heard about the IOM and its mission through another victim of trafficking.

She received medical and reintegration assistance. This support enabled her to fund a cottage and goods. Salma is now running a grocery store in her village. An IOM team visited her in May and took note of her impressive progress. Salma is very happy to share everyday life with her family, especially her mother, who is joyfully participating in the business and participating in the education of her two grandchildren.

The family is currently living in a tent. Because of her precarious and hard living conditions, Salma benefitted from housing assistance to realise her everlasting dream: building her own house. IOM will cover 55% of the total cost. The rest will be at Salma and her relatives' charge. The benefits raised from the grocery store will be invested in the construction of the new house and help ensure a more stable future for Salma and her family.



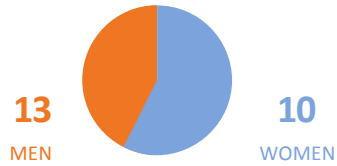
©OIM/F.Samba/2017

◀ The commerce of Salma, a grocery store in her village

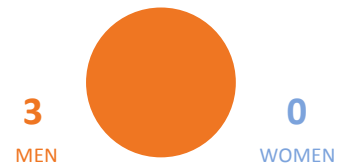
BALANCE SHEET AVRR FEBRUARY / MAY 2017

Assistance to Voluntary Return and Reintegration

RETURN FROM MAURITANIA
23



RETURN TO MAURITANIA
3



DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIAN TALIBE CHILDREN AND THOSE FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

As part of the project «Increase local response capacity in Mauritania to assist stranded and vulnerable migrants through health, legal and reintegration support» financed by the Union European Union, IOM Mauritania intends to promote direct assistance to Mauritanian Talibé children and those coming from neighbouring countries.

IOM in collaboration with its partners, especially the Rabita, the Mauritanian Association of Oulémas, and the Association of Women Heads of Families, has selected seven Mahadras that represent 337 Talibé children to be assisted.

The project intervention in the Mahadras does not only include direct assistance to children but also rehabilitation of schools. The unhealthy living spaces, rooms, kitchens and sanitary facilities will be rehabilitated to improve living conditions of children studying in these Koranic schools.



© OIM/S.Desjardins/2017



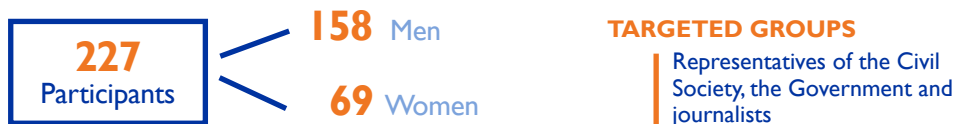
▲ Koran verse on a wooden shelf writing session

INCREASE LOCAL RESPONSE CAPACITIES IN MAURITANIA TO ASSIST STRANDED AND VULNERABLE MIGRANTS THROUGH HEALTH, LEGAL AND REINTEGRATION SUPPORT

«We cannot have a positive interaction with a person if we do not make the effort to know and understand him» says Mrs. Khadija Souary, representative of GADEM Morocco (Antiracist Group of Assistance and Defence of Foreigners and Migrants) during the discussions held in Nouakchott and Rosso in collaboration with AMDH Mauritania.

The workshop on interculturalism and migration was part of a training cycle implemented by IOM Mauritania and funded by the European Union. Capacity building activities included sensitisation and provision of tools to provide better identification and assistance to vulnerable migrants, including migrant children. The trainings also aimed at strengthening civil society capacities health, psychosocial and legal assistance provided to vulnerable migrants fields.

Furthermore, the project provides training sessions to local media so they are well informed on different migratory flows and their protection issues. Therefore, beneficiaries have access to specific technical expertise related to their fields of activity. They receive logistical support and equipment, when needed.



TACKLED THEMES

Health and migration, Inter-culturalism and Migration, Migrants' Psychosocial Assistance, Migrants' protection, including minors and Migration Media coverage

COLLABORATIONS

Jordan Media Institute, Al Jazeera Qatar, New German Mediamakers, Ecole Nationale d'Administration du Journalisme et de la Magistrature, Save The Children Mauritanie, AMDH, GADEM Maroc, IOM Morocco, IOM Senegal, IOM Regional Office West and Central Africa

ADVOCACY GUIDE FOR THE DEFENCE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS' RIGHTS

IOM Mauritania organised on March 23rd 2017, a launching workshop for the «Advocacy Guide for the Defence of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers Rights». The Mauritanian Association of Human Rights (AMDH) elaborated this guide later revised and printed in 1000 copies by IOM.

«This Guide, which will be distributed to beneficiaries and institutions involved in migration management and the defence of the migrants' rights, aims to strengthen migrants' capacities to defend their rights and promote dialogue between the government and Civil society» Said Anke Strauss, IOM Mauritania Chief of Mission.

The guide is available online in French and Arabic on IOM Mauritania's website.

Downloadable in PDFs

French: <https://lc.cx/J7K5>

Arab: <http://k6.re/VbB=E>



SIMULATION EXERCISE IN GHABOU / KHABOU: HUMANITARIAN BORDER MANAGEMENT



▲ The General Director of the Mauritanian Civil Protection Unit providing the leader of the Malian community of Khabou with a complete first aid kit



▲▲ A first-aid gesture trained members of the local community are working to provide first aid to victims with the support of Civil Protection

©OIM/S.Reclaru/2017 et ©OIM/M.Lo/2017

In the framework of the project «Improving Collective Border Management Capacities and Protecting the Border Communities of Mauritania and Mali», funded by the Government of Japan, IOM undertook two simulation exercises in Humanitarian Border and Crisis Management (HBM) on the 18th and 19th of April 2017 in Ghabou, a small town next to the river, on the border between Mauritania and Mali.

These full-scale exercises involved local authorities, security forces and civil protection units of both countries, and also local communities and all technical services involved in border crisis management.

The «crisis» originated in crowd movement of about 50 people at the border caused by a tanker truck carrying highly toxic materials. Communities fled towards the shore and crossed the river using canoes, under the supervision of life guards especially sent for the exercise.

At the end of these exercises, hygiene bags (including soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, antiseptic preserves) were distributed to the members of the Mauritanian and Malian communities.

In addition, emergency kits were provided to the police, the civil protection forces, the authorities and the local communities. This kind of exercise allows actors involved to test their sudden migratory crisis capacity, while it also strengthened the close collaboration between the two countries.



REVIEW OF THE BORDER MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING PROJECT

IOM has implemented, from 1st January 2014, the project «*Strengthening the Management of Migration Flows in Mauritania through Better Border Control and Assistance to Irregular Migrants*», funded by the European Union. This project, which ended in April 2017, enabled us to set basis for fruitful and efficient collaboration with Mauritanian security services in charge of border management and for durable collaboration with our partner, the European Union.

Along the sixteen training sessions, 247 police officers and gendarmes were trained on various

topics related to Border Management, including travelers control procedures at the borders, human and migrant rights, human trafficking, the detection of false documents and first aid provision. Thanks to the acquired capacities, trained agents are now receiving border crossing travelers in an appropriate manner and thus demonstrating their professionalism.

Furthermore, five border posts were built in Hamoud, Lexeiba II, Melgué Sagné, and Tenaha for the police and gendarmerie services. Provided equipment, such as operational

procedures and documentary fraud handbooks, falsified documents detection kits, HF radios and hard drives (among other things), will help improve each security border post capacities and, consequently, the security of the surrounding population.

With the project ending, IOM would like to take the opportunity express its gratitude to the European Union for their financial support, and to the Mauritanian authorities for their active participation in its implementation.

IOM MAURITANIA BRINGS ITS SUPPORT TO IOM IVORY COAST

IOM Mauritania provided technical expertise to two trainings and sensitisation sessions for the Vice-prefects and the members of the security forces in Ivory Coast, on the Liberian border, from 24th to 28th April 2017.

These trainings covered standard operational procedures for border control and management, detection of and fight against of human trafficking, migrants smuggling and humanitarian border management concepts.

These trainings took successively place in Danané and Touleupleu, for six vice-prefects and representatives of all security forces in the zone: army, gendarmerie, police, customs, and environment security forces. This kind of joint actions highlights the active and efficient collaboration between different IOM offices.

▼ A group picture during a training on border humanitarian and crisis management for vice-prefects and representatives of all security forces in Danané, on the border of Liberia



FIRST AID TRAINING, «LEARNING HOW TO SAVE A LIFE»

Learning How to Save a Life was the main challenge faced by the sixty participants during the first two aid training courses delivered by four civil protection trainers from Mauritania and Mali. Funded by the Government of Japan, these trainings were held in Khabou/Mali and Ghabou/Mauritania, in April.

Police officers, youth associations and local community representatives on border zones, were brought together to learn, in a practical way, how to rapidly and efficiently respond to respiratory arrest, to treat open and bleeding wounds or provide the required help to a victim of snake bite. These training activities have reinforced the collaboration between participants from both countries.

On the other hand, the beneficiaries of this training were sensitised on the concept of “humanitarian border management», elaborated by IOM, and also the next simulations’ programming along with communities’ actors different attributions.

▼ The Mauritanian trainer teaches the first aid gestures to the participants in Khabou (Mali)



LIVESTOCK FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN THE HODH ECH CHARGUI

In collaboration with the Breeding Administration, IOM implemented a vaccination campaign for 15,000 head of cattle. This campaign targeted seven villages of the host communities in the Hodh Ech Chargui region and the M'bera Malian refugee camp.

The villages and the refugee camp have also been supported by a large distribution of livestock feed.

More than 300 households benefitted from this distribution, of which 50% were refugees allowing to quickly increase the cattle's daily milk production.



We have benefited from the distribution of livestock feed for the village herds of goats and cows. The daily milk produced by the animals is essential the preparation of the evening couscous. Without this support, it would be very difficult for us to eat



claims one beneficiary from the village of Koussana.

Same opinion on the refugees' side:

«Women are now able to sell their milk in Fassala. Before the distribution of livestock feed, we could hardly fill-up a glass of tea with the milk. The exhausted cattle was able to recover and its weight improved significantly», said a refugee breeder.

The WFP Deputy Director visits M'bera Camp Vaccination Park

Mr. Yasuhiro Tsumura, Deputy Director of WFP, visited the village of M'bera 2's vaccination park, built by the IOM in 2015.

He exchanged with the IOM team about the sanitary measures implemented to fight diseases and allow the livestock proper development. The vaccination campaigns are important to keep livestock healthy and thus address food needs of many villages in the Hodh Ech Chargui.

This campaign, funded by the US Government, will allow the vaccination, the de-worming and the veterinary monitoring of 15,000 heads of the livestock.



©OIM/S.Desjardins/2017





The unprecedented demographic explosion in the Sahel region and the entry of an idle young population in an already saturated labour market, represents great challenges for today's Mauritania. The scarcity of employment, the poverty, the idleness, and the social exclusion are most common factors leading to irregular migration and adherence to terrorist groups.

To face these challenges and assist the Government of Mauritania, IOM is implementing the EMELI¹ project, with the USAID's financial support, which aims at building and strengthening capacities of Mauritanian youths from the Mahadras.

One of the project's main objectives is to fully integrate these youth in the labour market. To this end, IOM has carried out a market study that will identify growth sectors of the Mauritanian economy. In partnership with INAP-FTP (The national institute of vocational of training), IOM will develop vocational



training modules adapted to identified sectors that will then be provided within a vocational training center supported by the project.

EMELI will also tackle social exclusion by giving a voice to young people from the outskirt districts of Nouakchott with the creation of a Youth Cultural Centre, managed by the youth for the youth.

IOM has launched a major survey to map organisations having the required capacities to ensure proper management of the centre and smooth running of its various activities.

Targeted youth will also be supported by complementary training on soft and life skills and Thought Leadership (critical and creative thinking, value-based decision-making, ability to appreciate alternative perspectives etc.). These trainings will help strengthen youth empowerment and enhance their ability to address today's challenges in the region.

SOFT AND LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNICATION
PROACTIVITY
PROFESSIONALISM



TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

ADAPTED TO MARKET NEEDS
FULL INTEGRATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING
PRO-SOCIAL VALUE DECISION MAKING
ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Duration: 3rd January 2017 / 2nd January 2020

Budget: 6 498 330 USD

Technical partners:

- Ministry of Employment, Professional Training, Information Technologies and Communication
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Original Education
- The National Institute for the Promotion of Technical and Professional Training (INAP - FTP)
- The National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment (ANAPEJ)

¹ Empowering Mauritanian youth through Education, Leadership and self-improvement


SENSITISATION: IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

On the 25th February 2017, IOM organised, in partnership with the Nouakchott Youth Network, a sensitization caravan on the dangers of irregular migration, organized crime and violent extremism.

Moving through the Moughataas of Ryad, El Mina and Sebkh, **allowed the caravan to sensitize more than 3,000 young people with key messaging in local languages (hassanya, pulaar, wolof, soninke).** Aside from this activity, and on the same topic, local artists presented a song, and sketches were produced and staged by youth from neighbourhoods. This caravan, funded by the Government of Japan, is part of a wider sensitisation campaign carried out from 4th February to 15th March 2017. During this period, over forty-five young people from active associations of Ryad, El Mina and

Sebkh received training of trainers from two experts on the dangers of irregular migration, organised crime and violent extremism. This training, held at the City hall of El Mina, will enable youth to mobilise their skills and use their competences to sensitise populations from the neighbourhoods. On the other hand, a discussion and exchange forum brought together more than four hundred youth for a passionate debate on the same topics. These activities, held in the presence of Mauritanian authorities, were covered by the

print, radio and television media. Other sensitisation campaigns were organised last March for more than 150 young people by ADICOR, an IOM national NGO partner, in Aioun in the Wilaya of Hodh el Gharbi. Several activities were conducted by the local youth associations, including the organisation of a football competition, sketches, radio debates and a debate session between youths and religious leaders.

 Follow the caravan on a video <http://k6.re/z82Ez>

▼ Sensitisation on violent extremism and irregular migration in the streets of Nouakchott ©OIM/A.Bee/2017 et ©OIM/S.Desjardins/2017



IOM LAUNCHES A TOOL TO MAP MAURITANIAN DIASPORA

A workshop on Mauritanian diaspora mapping computer tool was held in Nouakchott In the presence of the Mauritanian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

This tool, elaborated with the funding of IOM's Development Fund, is set in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. It will be managed and updated by officials from this department.

It will precisely locate the qualified Mauritanian diaspora and will allow to assess their willingness in contributing to the country development.

This is the first attempt to map the Mauritanian diaspora. The current data is scattered and dates from 2013. The tool looks like the LinkedIn website. Each member of the diaspora, wishing to register, can easily do so. He will have a profile, which can be updated, containing his resume, allowing him to

apply to vacancies posted by the government, in charge of the portal.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mr Sidi Ould Salem, said:



With this tool, we want to develop a specific legal framework concerning the mobilization of the highly qualified Mauritanian diaspora



Mrs Anke Strauss, IOM's Chief of Mission, underlined the importance for Mauritania to have the capacity to mobilise its diaspora while highlighting that this project is in line with IOM diaspora mobilisation strategy articulated around the 3 E (Engage, Enable, and Empower).

It now is highly important to launch an extensive sensitisation campaign to inform the diaspora about the existence of this tool and modalities to register on it. IOM intends to support the Government of Mauritania in that way.

A Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals section will be implemented very soon, thanks to European Union funds.



STAY UP TO DATE ON OUR ACTIVITIES!

INTERNET

www.iom.int/fr/countries/mauritania

FACEBOOK

[@iommauritania](https://www.facebook.com/iommauritania)

Chief of Mission IOM Mauritania

Anke STRAUSS

IOM NOUAKCHOTT

Lot 551 E Nord Tevragh Zeina - Nouakchott Mauritania (RIM)
Tel : +222 45 24 40 81 // Fax : +222 45 24 40 81 // iomnouakchott@iom.int



All the IOM Mauritania team has attended a training on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

This sensitisation presents rules and principles applied to IOM activities, clarified staff conduct expectations and provides precise information on the procedures to report any abuse.

IOM team welcomes new staff members:

ALIOUNE KANE
CHLOÉ SPARAGANO
FALL EL MOCTAR FARA
KHADIJETOU DIOP
MARIE PARDEY
MOUSSA TALL
SEIFEDDINE LAKHDHAR



المنظمة الدولية للهجرة
منظمة الأمم المتحدة للهجرة

Organisation internationale pour les migrations
L'organisme des Nations Unies chargé des migrations

OUR THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS

