With funding under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration has been designed to provide a coherent framework to save lives, protect and assist migrants along the Central Mediterranean Routes (CMR). This Flash Report aims to present the compiled results of the Joint Initiative in (i) the Sahel and Lake Chad, (ii) North Africa, and (iii) the Horn of Africa. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative comprises the following pillars of action:

• Protection and Voluntary Return Assistance
• Reintegration Support
• Capacity Development
• Data Collection and Analysis
• Information and Awareness Raising
• Community Stabilisation

For more information, visit our website www.migrationjointinitiative.org

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS IN MAY

• EU-IOM Joint Initiative activities, including voluntary return and reintegration support, will now be launched in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia.
• In Ethiopia, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is now partnering with 9 local NGOs for delivery of reintegration assistance in close coordination with key local government stakeholders. For more information, see page 4.
• In Côte d’Ivoire, three workshops organised by IOM, UNICEF, and the Directorate on Child Protection (DPE) trained 95 state and non-state actors from 18 different localities on protection of migrant children and migrant child case management.
• In Mali, 459 returnees are participating in three-months technical skills trainings at different vocational training centres. The training courses aim to support returnees find employment and all graduates will receive a recognized training certificate.
• In Somaliland, the programme supported the National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) to set up a returnee registration database. In Burkina Faso, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative supported government officials from the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) and the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) strengthen their capacities in data collection and monitoring of migration flows in a context of increased internal displacements.
• Programme Steering Committee meetings took place in Somalia (2nd), Ghana (3rd), The Gambia (6th). The national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on protection and transit assistance as well as on assisted voluntary return and reintegration were formally validated in Niger.

MIGRANTS ASSISTED WITH POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

72,343
migrants assisted after their return

86 % male
14 % female

1.9 % unaccompanied migrant children

VOLUNTARY RETURN

2,524¹ | 60,220²
Stranded and vulnerable migrants supported with their voluntary return under EUTF funding

PROTECTION & DIRECT ASSISTANCE

18³ | 26⁴
Migrant Resource and/or Response Centres established, rehabilitated or maintained

1,353¹ | 19,138²
Migrants assisted in Search and Rescue Operations

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

30³ | 36⁴
Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) in place (for more information visit displacement.iom.int)

AWARENESS RAISING

400¹ | 11,445²
Awareness raising activities organised

29,307¹ | 376,838²
Individuals reached by awareness raising activities

All data is preliminary and subject to change.
Figures on return and reintegration assistance in this report include support provided by the Better Migration Management Programme. IOM’s Search and Rescue operations are supported by the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Department for International Development (DFID).

¹ Figure reflecting the reporting month
² Figure since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (May 2017)
³ FMPs/MRRCs supported and operating
⁴ FMPs/MRRCs planned
VOLUNTARY RETURNS TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN funded under the EUTF

RETURN AND POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION & REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

Legend

Migrants assisted to return from transit and destination countries
Migrants assisted with post-arrival reception and/or reintegration assistance in country of origin

Post-arrival reception and/or reintegration assistance is provided to both returnees under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative and other eligible returnees.

VOLUNTARY RETURNS TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN funded under the EUTF
This section presents results under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Sahel, Lake Chad and North of Africa. Countries covered in this region are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Libya.

VOLUNTARY RETURNS FROM COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION

Cumulative until 31 May 2019

May 2019

IN THE PATH TO ADULTHOOD: WHEN UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN RETURN

While many children migrate irregularly ‘along the backway’ from The Gambia with family, many others embark on the journey alone, often drawn to the hope of making money in Europe. Children are particularly at risk along the migration routes. With support from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, Ousman, Omar and Kevin are back safely in The Gambia. For unaccompanied children, family tracing and best interest determination procedures are carried out in case of voluntary return requests. Upon arrival in The Gambia, children are provided essential assistance and reunited with their family as soon as possible. When he returned, Kevin received support to expand his uncle’s electronics business, under which he rents, sells and repairs gadgets. Meanwhile, Ousman received support to continue his studies, though he has since stopped. “I didn’t enjoy it, and I wanted to become a tailor,” he explains. Now working at a tailoring shop, Ousman’s parents hope he will soon pursue technical and vocational training to enhance his skills. Eleven-year old Omar is back in school, cheerful and happy playing football with his friends, like many boys of his age.

POST-ARRIVAL RECEPTION AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN THE SAHEL & LAKE CHAD

63,130² migrants were assisted after their return

1,783¹ | 62,807² Post-arrival reception assistance

² Figure reflecting the reporting month
¹ Figure since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (May 2017)

1,783¹ | 62,807²
Post-arrival reception assistance

(incl. reception at the airport, overnight accommodation, cash grant for immediate needs, first medical assistance, assistance with onwards transportation, material assistance)

2,354¹ | 53,482² Vulnerability screening and reintegration counselling

(migrants in vulnerable situations include unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking, persons with health-related needs; counselling includes information on the available assistance, development of reintegration plans)

3,859¹ | 29,646² Economic support

(incl. job placements, set-up of microbusinesses, trainings, cash for work programmes)

966¹ | 8,511² Social support

(incl. social protection schemes, housing, education, medical support, child care, legal services)

456¹ | 6,580² Psychosocial support

(incl. psychosocial counselling, focus group discussions, family mediation, community mediation, special security measures)

The same beneficiary of the programme can appear in multiple categories, but not multiple times within one category.

[Click here to read the full story]
In Ethiopia, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is partnering with nine local NGOs to facilitate the reintegration of migrant returnees in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples’ Region (SNNPR). Through these partnerships, two of which were concluded in May, returnees will receive tailor-made assistance, including vocational and technical skills trainings, job placements, in-kind support for income generating activities and linkages with financial institutions as well as other services such as medical and psychosocial support. In addition, children will be able to access protection mechanisms and other relevant services including education, health and legal support. Community-based child protection systems will also be strengthened, and their accessibility improved.

Sara Basha, the coordinator of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Ethiopia, explained: “In all the locations, we are working closely with partners, the local government and the local community to deliver reintegration support. These new partnerships are expected to strengthen the programme’s geographic coverage and monitoring of reintegration support.”

The same beneficiary of the programme can appear in multiple categories, but not multiple times within one category.