



Increase local response capacity in MAURITANIA to assist stranded and vulnerable migrants through health, legal and reintegration support

Executing agency: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Funding: European Union - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Co-funding: Italy, Czech Republic, Norway

Geographical Coverage: Mauritania

Partners: Local religious and community leaders, Ministry of Religious Affairs officials, local CSO/NGOs, UNICEF, WFP

Beneficiaries: Vulnerable migrants, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and the Family, Ministry of Health, the Commission of Human Rights, Regional Directorate of Security (DRSs), Governors, and Heads of Border Posts, NGOs, CSOs, media

Duration: 24 months (01.08.2016 – 01.08.2018)

Budget: € 1.298.913,17

CONTEXT

Like many of the countries in North Africa, **Mauritania is a country of origin, transit and destination** and its **migrant population is growing exponentially**. Its long, porous and poorly secured borders lie along traditional migratory routes used by migrants, refugees, smugglers and traffickers for decades to transport weapons, drugs and human beings. With the ongoing crisis in Mali, continued threats from Boko Haram to the south, and worsening economic conditions in the region, mixed migratory movements are increasing to take advantage of Mauritania's geography.

Combined with a **lack of economic opportunity, significant unemployment, a non-effective education system, and an inadequate national healthcare system** that frequently marginalizes and stigmatizes irregular and vulnerable migrants, Mauritania has many societal challenges it seeks to address while focusing on the concept of migrants' rights.



OBJECTIVES

Strengthen the response capacity of the Government of Mauritania and civil society to better address the specific needs of vulnerable and stranded migrants with special focus on unaccompanied migrant children.

Provide direct assistance to migrant children. Build institutional capacity to assist vulnerable migrants. Establish an effective referral system. Assist with the voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) of irregular migrants

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Provide **direct assistance to vulnerable migrant children, promoting their education, nutrition and healthcare.**
- Identify and register 150 migrant children in 7 target Mahadras (koranic schools) in Nouakchott.
- Provide additional academic classes; conduct recreational, cultural, and physical activities to migrant.
- Support local female cooperatives in assisting 150 migrant children in their basic needs.
- Develop and organize **tailored trainings for government at the central and local levels, CSOs, NGOs and media to increase their capacity** to respond to logistical, medical, psychosocial and legal needs of migrants with priority given to the most vulnerable, including unaccompanied minor children, vulnerable migrant children and victims of trafficking.
- Ensure a functional **referral mechanism** with Government representatives and selected CSOs/NGOs. The mechanism will direct vulnerable migrants, including migrant children, to the most appropriate service provider that will respond to specific logistical, medical, psychosocial, or legal needs.
- **Assisted Volunteer Return and Reintegration (AVRR)** activities with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.
- Provide information on the possibility to avail of voluntary return and reintegration.
- Undertake **health assessment** of migrants to ensure fitness to travel, screening on possible forms of exploitation, including trafficking; family tracing and Best Interest Determination (BID) for minors (to the extent feasible).
- Arrange local transport, reception, counselling and reintegration services.
- Follow-up of **migrants' reintegration plans** via direct relations with service providers and/or concerned institutions able to support each migrant project.
- Liaise with IOM offices in countries of origin, **national or other development institutions** active in the countries of origin in order to provide additional support to the migrants' reintegration projects.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Italy - Ministry of Interior

Ms. Carmelita F. Ammendola - Head of Unit III – International Relations

Email: carmelita.ammendola@interno.it

DG HOME AND MIGRATION

Email: Home-notifications-C3@ec.europa.eu